

NO24 (F)
MAHATHIR

70 (12)
KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 15 (BERNAMA)-- MALAYSIA AND JAPAN MUST PARTICIPATE MORE ACTIVELY AND DIRECTLY IN PROVIDING THE TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED SERVICES TO MEET THE INCREASING VOLUME OF TRADE GENERATED BY THE EXPANSION IN THEIR ECONOMY, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE CHRISTENING OF +RIMBA MERANTI+ AT IMARI, SOUTH JAPAN THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SHIP WAS ONE OF TWO VESSELS THE MISC AND ORDERED FROM THE NAMURA SHIPYARD.

HE SAID THIS REFLECTED THE SHIPPING LINE'S CONFIDENCE IN NAMURA'S ABILITY TO MEET THE TECHNICAL STANDARDS REQUIRED BY IT.

DR. MAHATHIR WAS CONFIDENT MALAYSIA WOULD MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS IN THE SHIPPING FIELD. IT WOULD NEED THE ASSISTANCE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES LIKE JAPAN FOR NECESSARY LOAN FACILITIES, TECHNICAL KNOWHOW AND TRAINING OF MALAYSIAN SEAMEN. --BERNAMA MORE 1424/MD

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HE SAID THAT THE +RIMBA+ MERANTI WAS THE FIRST OF THE NEW VESSELS TO BE NAMED AFTER COMMERCIAL TIMBER SPECIES EXPORTED FROM MALAYSIA.

HE ADDED THAT THE NEW TIMBER BULK SERVICE TO BE OPERATED BY MISC BEGINNING IN AUGUST, USING THE RIMBA MERANTI AND RIMBA RAMIN NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN NAMURA SHIPYARD AND TWO OTHERS TO BE DELIVERED THIS YEAR, WOULD PROVIDE EFFICIENT SERVICE TO SHIPPERS AND EXPORTERS OF BULK CARGO. --BERNAMA 1428/MD