

N135
MAHATHIR-CHAMBER
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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 31 (BERNAMA)-THE MALAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY HAS BEEN TOLD TO REVAMP ITS SETUP AND OBJECTIVES IN ORDER TO ACT AS AN IMPELLING FORCE TO BRING ABOUT MORE ACTIVE BUMIPUTRA PARTICIPATION IN BUSINESS.

THE CHAMBER MUST NOT FUNCTION SOLELY AS A PRESSURE GROUP OR A PLACE FOR MEMBERS TO AIR COMPLAINTS, SAID DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED.

HE TOLD CHAMBER MEMBERS AT THEIR ANNUAL DINNER HERE TONIGHT: "THE CHAMBER MUST PLAY A MORE DYNAMIC ROLE AND THINK ABOUT STARTING ITS OWN INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS, BY SHARES IN INDUSTRIES, AND SET UP A DISTRIBUTIVE NETWORK."

THE PROJECTS NEED NOT BE BIG. SMALL OR MODERATE-SIZE PROJECTS COULD ALSO BE A SOURCE OF PRIDE AND A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE FEDERAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FIDA) WILL INTENSIFY ITS EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE MORE BUMIPUTRA ENTREPRENEURS TO GO INTO VIABLE INDUSTRIES. -- BERNAMA MORE HM 2228

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MAHATHIR-CHAMBER 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ON "ALI-BABA" BUSINESSES, DR. MAHATHIR SAID THEY WERE NOT BAD JUST BECAUSE THEY WERE STARTED BY "ALI AND BABA".

"WHAT IS NOT GOOD IS WHEN ALI SLEEPS WHILE BABA WORKS," HE SAID. "THEY NEED NOT BE ABOLISHED BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT ALI MUST DILIGENTLY PLAY HIS ROLE."

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALSO URGED BUMIPUTRA GROUPS TO MOBILISE THEIR FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO BUY SHARES RESERVED FOR THEM.

HE SAID THEY MUST NOT CEDE THE ENTIRE BURDEN ONTO THE GOVERNMENT. -- BERNAMA HM 2230