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PETALING JAYA, APRIL 22 (BERNAMA)-DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT ALWAYS ENCOURAGED THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY.

IT WAS ALSO ITS POLICY TO AWARD ENGINEERING PROJECTS TO LOCAL FIRMS WITH THE NECESSARY SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERS BUILDING HERE, HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH PROJECTS WERE AWARDED TO FOREIGN FIRMS, THEY MUST GIVE AT LEAST 30 PER CENT OF THE WORK TO MALAYSIANS.

HE SAID WITH SUCH A POLICY, THE GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT LOCAL ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS COULD MUSTER ALL THE SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE TO ASSIST LOCAL FIRMS IN MORE COMPLEX WORK.

IT COULD NOT BE DENIED THAT ENGINEERS PLAYED A BIG ROLE IN THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT LIKE BUILDING OF ROADS, WATER SUPPLY AND ELECTRICITY. -BERNAMA MORE HM 1647

MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID OF THE \$18 BILLION ALLOCATED UNDER THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN, \$6.3 BILLION WAS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PHYSICAL STRUCTURES TO BE CARRIED OUT BY ENGINEERS.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT LOCAL ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS HAD ACHIEVED ENCOURAGING SUCCESS.

NEW ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS HAD ALSO BEEN ABLE TO PLAY THEIR ROLE IN THE SECOND MALAYSIA PLAN.

HE BELIEVED THAT UNDER THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN MORE LOCAL ENGINEERING FIRMS COULD ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

WITH THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THAT STATUS, ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY MIGHT BECOME ONE OF THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNERS FOR THIS COUNTRY. -BERNAMA MORE HM 1700

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A FACTOR THAT COULD CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY IN THE COUNTRY WAS THE PRESENCE OF A LARGE POOL OF QUALIFIED ENGINEERS.

HE SAID THERE WERE 3,500 REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND 1,500 GRADUATE ENGINEERS.

THE NUMBER OF GRADUATE ENGINEERS WAS INCREASING EVERY YEAR AND WITH THIS SOURCES THE ENGINEERING FIELD IN MALAYSIA WOULD CONTINUE TO IMPROVE IN QUALITY.

ON PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERS, DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS COULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO THOSE UNABLE TO GO TO UNIVERSITIES OF COLLEGES TO SIT FOR SUCH EXAMINATIONS TO BE QUALIFIED AS ENGINEERS.

SEMINARS AND PRACTICAL COURSES CARRIED OUT BY THE INSTITUTE COULD ALSO IMPROVE ENGINEERING STANDARDS IN THE COUNTRY. -- BERNAMA

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