

MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 4 (BERNAMA) — THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER,

DATO SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE AUSTRALIA WORK OUT A MORE FAVOURABLE POLICY TO CORRECT THE BALANCE OF TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH IS NOW IN AUSTRALIA'S FAVOUR.

HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH THE UNFAVOURABLE BALANCE OF TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA DID NOT AFFECT MALAYSIA SUBSTANTIALLY, MALAYSIA WOULD LIKE TO SEEK AUSTRALIA'S ASSISTANCE IN SOLVING THE PROBLEM.

HE SAID THE MATTER WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT ASEAN SUMMIT MEETING HERE IN AUGUST, DATO SERI DR. MAHATHIR TOLD REPORTERS AFTER RECEIVING A CHEQUE FOR \$25,000 FROM THE ASSISTANT MANAGER OF THE CALTEX OIL SDN BERHAD, ENCIK DON C. MOORE AT HIS OFFICE HERE TODAY.

THE CHEQUE REPRESENTS CALTEX'S ANNUAL DONATION TO THE MALAYSIAN SCHOOLS SPORTS COUNCIL (MSSC).

HE ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW CONSIDERING AN INTEGRATED APPROACH REGARDING INVESTMENT CALLED THE PACKAGE DEAL. HE ADDED THAT THE FEDERAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FIDA) WOULD UNDERTAKE THE TASK OF COORDINATING ALL ACTIVITIES UNDER THE DEAL.

DATO SERI DR. MAHATHIR ADDED PLANS TO CARRY OUT THE TASK HOWEVER, HAD YET TO BE FINALISED.

DATO SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE PRIME MINISTER DATO HUSSEIN ONN WOULD BE CALLING A MEETING OF THE UNIONS ORGANISED BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND MANPOWER, TO DISCUSS THE EXISTING ANOMALIES IN THE CABINET COMMITTEE REPORT.

— BERNAMA 1225/ZCM <sup>Report on</sup> MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR (BERNAMA PENS / ITEM 27)

HE ALSO SAID THAT THOSE WHO HAD NOT RECEIVED THEIR OPTION PAPERS HAD NOTHING TO LOSE AS IT WAS NOT THEIR FAULT.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT, AS THEIR EMPLOYER, WOULD NOT VICTIMISE THEM AS THEIR ARREARS WOULD BE BACKDATED AFTER THEY HAD RECEIVED AND SIGNED THEIR OPTION PAPERS. — BERNAMA 1655/YF