

## FIDA URGED TO SET UP CENTRAL UNIT

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 9 (BERNAMA ES) - THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DATO' SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, TONIGHT URGED THAT A CENTRAL UNIT BE SET UP IN FIDA TO EXPEDITE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS.

HE SUGGESTED THAT SUCH A UNIT BE MANNED BY EXPERT PERSONNEL FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS DEALING IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER WITH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

IN A SPEECH AT FIDA'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER, DATO' SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THESE OFFICERS COULD BE SECONDED FROM DEPARTMENTS SUCH AS THE ROYAL CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, THE TREASURY AND THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND MANPOWER.

THEY SHOULD BE PERMANENTLY STATIONED AT FIDA PREMISES WHERE THEY WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION AND DISCUSSIONS NOT ONLY WITH FIDA OFFICERS BUT WITH POTENTIAL INDUSTRIALISTS. THE SPEECH WAS PRESENTED BY THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MANPOWER, DATUK SERI LEE SAN CHOON.

DATO' SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID: +I THINK WE SHOULD WORK TOWARDS REMOVING THE NECESSITY OF A POTENTIAL INVESTOR, AFTER COMING IN CONTACT WITH FIDA, HAVING TO GO FROM ONE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT TO ANOTHER TO OBTAIN DETAILS AND SPECIFIC CLEARANCES ON POLICIES AND PROCEDURES,+ DATO' SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID.

HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE SECOND DECADE OF FIDA START WITH FIDA BECOMING A +ONE-STOP+ AGENCY FOR POTENTIAL INVESTORS.

THE DEPUTY PREMIER, WHO IS ALSO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE ON INVESTMENT, AGAIN REAFFIRMED THAT MALAYSIA WAS DETERMINED TO PURSUE A COURSE OF INDUSTRIALISATION THAT WOULD MAKE MANUFACTURING THE LARGEST CONTRIBUTING SECTOR TO GDP BY 1990.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTED THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO PLAY A DYNAMIC ROLE TO ENSURE THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

DATO' SERI DR. MAHATHIR POINTED OUT THAT THERE MIGHT BE BOTTLE-NECKS, MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND MISGIVINGS IN THE COURSE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT AND URGED THAT SUCH PROBLEMS BE BROUGHT TO FIDA'S ATTENTION.

AND IF PROBLEMS AFFECTED AN INDUSTRY IN GENERAL OR HAD WIDER IMPLICATIONS, THEY SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE CABINET COMMITTEE, HE ADDED.

DATO' SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID ONLY WHEN A TRUE AND HONEST DIALOGUE WAS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE GOVERNMENT COULD SATISFACTORY RESULTS BE ACHIEVED.

THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, DATUK HANZAH ABU SAMAH, SAID FIDA HAD TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE BOOM YEARS OF 1972 TO 1974 TO ENCOURAGE AN INFLOW OF FOREIGN INVESTMENTS INTO THE COUNTRY.