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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 6 (BERNAMA) - STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT EQUITY PARTICIPATION AND MANPOWER DEPLOYMENT OF MALAYSIANS OF INDIAN ORIGIN IN FACTORIES ARE ENCOURAGING, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, SAID.

UP TO 1975, THEIR EQUITY PARTICIPATION AMOUNTED TO ABOUT \$16.6 MILLION OUT OF THE EQUITY TOTAL OF \$1,355.6 MILLION, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ADDED AT A DINNER TO MARK THE SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THE SELANGOR INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HERE TONIGHT.

HE SAID 22,880 WORKERS, COMPRISING 10.9 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL WORK FORCE IN FACTORIES, WERE MALAYSIANS OF INDIAN ORIGIN.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR URGED INDIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO COOPERATE MORE WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO ENCOURAGE THE PARTICIPANTS OF INDIANS IN INDUSTRIES.

HOWEVER, HE WAS PLEASED WITH THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE CHAMBERS IN THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ESPECIALLY IN THE IMPORT-EXPORT AND RETAIL TRADES.

THIS ROLE WAS ALL THE MORE OUTSTANDING IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT MALAYSIANS OF INDIAN ORIGIN COMPRISED ONLY NINE PER CENT.

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MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT MALAYSIANS OF INDIAN ORIGIN HAD PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE

IN THE IMPORT-EXPORT TRADE SINCE THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY.

THEY HAD MONOPOLISED SEVERAL FIELDS INCLUDING RICE, SILK CLOTH AND ONIONS.

HE ALSO PRAISED THE CHAMBER FOR CARRYING OUT SEVERAL WELFARE PROJECTS INCLUDING SETTING UP A SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE NATIONAL DISASTER FUND AND THE FLOOD RELIEF FUND. -