

MAHATHIR

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SEREMBAN, APRIL 15 (BERNAMA) — THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY IS PREPARING A PACKAGE PROGRAMME BASED ON WESTERN FRANCHISE SYSTEM TO HELP BUMIPUTRA BUSINESSMEN, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PROGRAMME WOULD INCLUDE A COMPLETE GUIDE-BOOK INDICATING THE NATURE OF BUSINESS AND HOW TO TACKLE IT. TRAINING WOULD BE PROVIDED BY THE MINISTRY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR THE \$14 MILLION DATO MANSOR COMPLEX IN JALAN BIRCH HERE.

THE COMPLEX, WHICH WOULD BE BUILT BY THE NEGERI SEMBILAN MALAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TRADE, WOULD HOUSE A SUPERMARKET, SHOPPING ARCADE, CINEMA AND A HOTEL.

HE SAID THE PACKAGE WOULD BE ON A SIMILAR LINE OF THE FRANCHISE OFFERED BY WESTERN COUNTRIES WHERE THE FRANCHISE HOLDER WAS GIVEN ALL THE NECESSARY TRAINING AND HELP TO ENSURE HE SUCCEEDS IN BUSINESS. —BERNAMA MORE 1323/MD

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HE HOPED THE PACKAGE PROGRAMME WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED SOON.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN STEPS TO REDUCE RED-TAPE IN GRANTING LOANS TO BUMIPUTRA BUSINESSMEN.

IT HAD ALSO TAKEN STEPS TO ELIMINATE THE BOTTLE-NECK AS FAR AS APPLICATION FOR NEW INDUSTRIES WERE CONCERNED.

ON BUMIPUTRA PARTICIPATION IN BUSINESS, HE SAID SO FAR THE RESPONSE WERE GOOD ALTHOUGH IT COULD BE IMPROVED FURTHER.

THE DEPUTY PREMIER ADDED THAT SOME BUMIPUTRA BUSINESSMEN WERE UNDER THE MISCONCEPTION THAT THEY WERE DOING A FAVOUR TO THE GOVERNMENT BY VENTURING INTO BUSINESS.

+THIS IS A WRONG ATTITUDE BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT SINCERELY WANTS TO ENCOURAGE BUMIPUTRAS TO GO INTO BUSINESS FOR THEIR OWN GOOD. + HE SAID. — BERNAMA MORE 1415/MD

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE AVAILABLE NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUMIPUTRAS TO PARTICIPATE IN BUSINESS AND IT WAS UP TO THEM TO SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES.

EARLIER, SPEAKING AT THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION CEREMONY, HE REMINDED THE MALAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TRADE THAT IT SHOULD ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT.

+IT IS NO USE BEING PROUD OF BUILDING A BIG COMPLEX IF THE MAIN AIM WHICH WAS TO DO BUSINESS WAS NOT ACHIEVED. + HE SAID.

HE SUGGESTED THAT ONE WAY TO ENSURE SUCCESS WAS TO ALLOW NON-BUMIPUTRAS TO TAKE UP SHOPPING LOTS IN THE COMPLEX.

+IN BUSINESS WE SHOULD BE PRACTICAL. WE GO INTO IT NOT BECAUSE OF NATIONALISM BUT TO MAKE PROFIT. + HE STRESSED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HOPED THAT HIS SUGGESTION WOULD NOT BE MISCONSTRUED BY THE PEOPLE. — BERNAMA MORE 1417/SZ

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HE CALLED ON THE CHAMBER TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN HELPING BUMIPUTRA BUSINESSMEN.

THE MENTRI BESAR OF NEGRI SEMBILAN, DATUK MANSOR OTHMAN, SAID THE BUMIPUTRA BUSINESSMEN SHOULD CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE IF THEY WANT TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS.

HE ASSURED THAT STATE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO ITS BEST TO HELP THEM WHEREVER IT COULD. HE ALSO ASSURED NON-BUMIPUTRA BUSINESSMEN THAT SIMILAR HELP WOULD BE GIVEN TO THEM WHEREVER NECESSARY.

THE PRESIDENT OF NEGRI SEMBILAN MALAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TRADE, DATUK ARIFFIN ALI, SAID THE PROJECT WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN AUGUST WOULD BE BUILT IN THREE PHASES. -- BERNAMA