

MAHATHIR

78 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 11 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT A FREE AGENT AND THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT IS FREE TO DO ANYTHING THAT EVERYONE SUGGESTS IS A FREQUENT CAUSE OF MISUNDERSTANDING, (DATUK SERI (DR.) MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID TODAY.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO CONSIDER NOT ONLY THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW, SOME OF WHICH COULD NOT BE ALTERED, BUT ALSO THE FACT THAT EVERY ACTION IT TOOK HAD A REACTION.

+APART FROM THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE REACTION CAN UNDERMINE THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT, IT CAN VERY OFTEN NEGATE OR REVERSE THE VERY OBJECTIVE OF THE RECOMMENDATION, + HE SAID.

DATUK SERI (DR.) MAHATHIR WAS OPENING A WORKSHOP ON PRODUCTIVITY IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES ORGANISED BY THE ENGINEERING FACULTY OF UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA HERE.

HE SAID GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES WERE SELDOM EXCLUDED FROM SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS OF THIS NATURE AND THIS WAS AS IT SHOULD BE.

THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED NOT ONLY TO KNOW THE VIEWS OF OTHERS BUT ALSO TO PUT FORTH ITS VIEWS AND MORE IMPORTANTLY ITS LIMITATIONS.

— BERNAMA MORE 1030/AZ

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THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID PRODUCTIVITY HAD BECOME A HOUSEHOLD WORD BUT IT WAS STILL DOUBTFUL WHETHER EVERYONE UNDERSTOOD THE ROLE EACH HAD TO PLAY IN THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THE NATION.

MOST PEOPLE WERE INCLINED TO THINK THAT IT WAS THE OTHERS WHO SHOULD AVOID HAMPERING PRODUCTIVITY.

THEY SAW THEMSELVES AS HAVING NO ROLE OR AS HAVING DONE EVERYTHING NECESSARY AND PRODUCTIVITY SHOULD BE AT MAXIMUM BUT FOR THE ACTIVITY OR LACK OF ACTIVITY OF OTHER PEOPLE.

+THUS WE HAVE OWNERS OF INDUSTRIES BLAMING MANAGEMENT AND WORKERS FOR LOW PRODUCTIVITY, MANAGEMENT BLAMING THE DIRECTORS AND THE WORKERS, WORKERS BLAMING MANAGEMENT AND OWNERS AND OF COURSE EVERYONE BLAMING THE GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT BLAMING EVERYONE, + HE SAID.

IN THE PROCESS, PRODUCTIVITY WAS USUALLY FURTHER DECREASED.

DATUK SERI (DR.) MAHATHIR HOPED THAT THE WORKSHOP WOULD EXPOSE THE DIFFERENT SIDES OF THE PICTURE AND CREATE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING

OF THE ROLE THAT EVERYONE MUST PLAY TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY.

HE SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE EVEN BETTER IF ALL SEMINARS ON PRODUCTIVITY INVOLVED WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES AS WELL. — BERNAMA MORE 1033/AZ

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NO07 (F)

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HE SAID THAT ALL DISCUSSIONS, DEBATES AND CONCLUSIONS WOULD COME TO NOTHING IF WORKERS FAILED TO APPRECIATE AND UNDERSTAND THE WAYS AND WHEREFORES OF THESE TECHNICAL AND POSSIBLY PHILOSOPHICAL EXERCISES.

+WE SEE FOR EXAMPLE HOW PRODUCTIVITY PROBLEMS ARE TACKLED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS ONLY TO BE NEGATED BY FAILURE OF WORKER COOPERATION, + HE ADDED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, WILLING WORKERS HAD FAILED TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY BECAUSE OF POOR MACHINE DESIGNS WORKING CONDITIONS.

BERNAMA 1025/AZ

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ABOUT 100 REPRESENTATIVES FROM UNIVERSITIES, MANUFACTURING COMPANIES, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND STATUTORY BODIES ARE TAKING PART IN THE THREE-DAY WORKSHOP. — BERNAMA 1053/1B