

MAHATHIR
BM

ALOR STAR, AUG. 3 (BERNAMA)—DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE WOULD NOT ENTERTAIN ANY APPLICATION FOR AP (IMPORT PERMITS) IF THE APPLICANT +CANNOT PROVE THAT HE REALLY WANTS TO RUN THE BUSINESS.+

HE SAID IN THE PAST THERE WERE CASES WHERE HOLDERS OF SUCH PERMITS DID NOT ACTUALLY RUN THE BUSINESS BUT INSTEAD +LEASE OUT+ THE PERMITS TO OTHERS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, WARNED BUMIPUTRAS WHO OBTAINED SUCH PERMITS NOT TO LEASE THEM OUT.

THE AP'S WERE GIVEN TO BUMIPUTRAS TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IMPORT BUSINESS AS THEY DID NOT HAVE MUCH OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME AGENTS OR DISTRIBUTORS. HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE 5TH GENERAL MEETING OF THE KEDAH BRANCH OF THE MALAYSIAN MALAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY HERE. —BERNAMA MORE 1454/MD

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ON FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ATTRACT MORE FOREIGNERS TO INVEST IN THE COUNTRY.

HOWEVER, NOT MANY OF THEM WERE KEEN TO SET UP JOINT VENTURES WITH BUMIPUTRAS.

HE HOPED THAT BUMIPUTRA INDUSTRIALISTS AND BUSINESS MEN WOULD IDENTIFY THE CAUSE OF THIS SO THAT STEPS COULD BE TAKEN TO CORRECT THE SITUATION.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AGAIN HIT OUT AT SOME FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS WHO TRIED TO PAINT A GLOOMY PICTURE OF THE COUNTRY TO DISCOURAGE FOREIGN INVESTORS FROM COMING TO MALAYSIA.

THE CORRESPONDENTS, HE SAID, DID NOT MAKE AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE COUNTRY'S SITUATION BUT INSTEAD RELIED ON CERTAIN GROUPS OF PEOPLE FOR INFORMATION.

THESE GROUPS, WHO HAD THEMSELVES AMASSED THEIR WEALTH FROM THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY, HAD CLAIMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT POLICY WAS UNFAIR. —BERNAMA MORE 1514/MD

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT RELY ON FOREIGNERS' ADVICE IN FORMULATING NATIONAL POLICY AND DID NOT REQUIRE THE SERVICES OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS TO TELL INVESTORS ABROAD OF MALAYSIA'S INVESTMENT CLIMATE.

THESE CORRESPONDENTS HAD BLAMED THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY AS AN OBSTACLE TO ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN THE COUNTRY.

ON RACIAL HARMONY IN THE COUNTRY, HE SAID IT WAS BETTER THAN IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID RACIAL RELATIONS COULD BE STRENGTHENED THROUGH BUSINESS AND WITH THE SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE.

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MENTRI BESAR, HAJI MOHAMAD MUSLIM BIN HAJI OTHMAN, AND DEPUTY HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER DATUK SERI SYED AHMAD SHAHABUDDIN WERE ALSO PRESENT. —BERNAMA 1522/MD