

MAHATHIR - MIC
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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 9 (BERNAMA)—DATUK SERI DR. (MAHATHIR MOHAMED) SUGGESTED TODAY THAT MALAYSIAN INDIANS IN THE COUNTRY CHANGE THEIR TRADITIONAL FORM OF INVESTMENT TO ONE THAT GIVES BETTER RESULTS AND IS MORE PROFITABLE TO THE COMMUNITY AND ALSO THE NATION AS A WHOLE.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY WAS IMPORTANT TO EXPEDITE THE REALISATION OF THE PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS FOR PROGRESS AND THE FUTURE.

OPENING THE MIC GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT THE DEWAN BAHASA DAN PUSTAKA HERE, HE CALLED ON MORE MALAYSIAN INDIAN BUSINESSMEN AND ENTREPRENEURS TO INVEST IN THE VARIOUS SECTORS IN THE COUNTRY.

AT PRESENT, THEY HAD LITTLE INTEREST IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, CONSIDERING IT AS HAVING HIGHER RISKS THAN THE PROPERTY AND OTHER SECTORS. —BERNAMA MORE 1335/AH

MAHATHIR - MIC 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROVIDED INCENTIVES AND SET UP AGENCIES FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF ENCOURAGING GREATER INVESTMENTS BY THE PEOPLE.

THE AGENCIES WERE FORMED TO SERVE ALL THE COMMUNITIES AND COULD HELP THE INDIAN COMMUNITY IMPROVE ITS ECONOMIC POSITION.

HOWEVER, THE COMMUNITY NEEDED TO FIRST PREPARE ITSELF AND ACQUIRE THE NECESSARY TRAINING FOR GREATER ECONOMIC TAKE-OFF.

ON THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY, HE SAID THAT THE PEOPLE NEEDED TO HAVE A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF THE PURPOSE OF THE POLICY.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE HOPED THE MIC WOULD EXPLAIN THE OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY AND THEIR EFFECT ON THE COUNTRY TO THEIR MEMBERS AND THE INDIAN COMMUNITY.

THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE POLICY BY ALL THE COMMUNITIES WOULD FACILITATE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO HELP THEM. —BERNAMA MORE 1340/AH

MAHATHIR - MIC 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THE PLIGHT OF MALAYSIAN WORKERS OF INDIAN DESCENT, PARTICULARLY THOSE EMPLOYED IN ESTATES.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ENSURE THAT ESTATE MANAGERMENTS PROVIDED INFRASTRUCTURE AND BASIC AMENITIES FOR THEIR WORKERS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO GIVEN AID FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF INDIAN TEMPLES.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HOPED THAT MALAYSIAN INDIANS WHO HAD ACQUIRED CITIZENSHIP STATUS APPRECIATED THEIR CITIZENSHIP AND NOT BE LIKE SOME PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN GIVEN CITIZENSHIP BUT WHO CRITICISED THEIR OWN COUNTRY IN PUBLICATIONS OR TO FOREIGN VISITORS.

HE WARNED THEM OF THE EXISTENCE OF GROUPS WHICH WERE ATTEMPTING TO AROUSE UNHEALTHY SENTIMENTS AMONG THEM. —BERNAMA MORE 1344/AH

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NO20 (F)

MAHATHIR - MIC 4 KUALA LUMPUR

TURNING TO POLITICS, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE MIC, AS A COMPONENT MEMBER OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL, HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN NATIONAL POLITICS.

HE ADDED THAT THE ABILITY OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES TO UNDERSTAND THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE WAS A KEY FACTOR IN EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY AND STABILITY OF NATIONAL POLITICS.

POLITICAL PARTIES SHOULD BE COGNIZANT OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF HAVING A PLURAL SOCIETY IN THE COUNTRY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION IN CREATING A UNITED NATION.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS HIS EARNEST HOPE THAT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MIC AND THE OTHER COMPONENT PARTIES IN THE BN CONTINUED TO IMPROVE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE STABILITY AND FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY. —BERNAMA MORE 1349/AH

MAHATHIR - MIC 5 KUALA LUMPUR

IN HIS SPEECH, MIC PRESIDENT TAN SRI V. MANICKAVASAGAM CALLED FOR A +THOROUGH - GOING REASSESSMENT+ ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

HE SAID: +THE GAP BETWEEN THE PROMISE OF THE POLICY AND THE REALITIES OF DELIVERY REMAINS WIDE.

+A CREDIBILITY GAP OF THIS SORT CAN WELL UNDERMINE THE WIDER ACCEPTANCE OF THE FRAMEWORK AND OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY ITSELF, IF NOT ATTENDED TO SERIOUSLY,+ HE WARNED.

ACCORDING TO HIM, STATE GOVERNMENTS, STATUTORY BODIES AND DEPARTMENTS WHICH HAD STRONG INFLUENCE ON THE COURSE OF DEVELOPMENT WERE +NOT FULLY SENSITIVE TO THE FINER POINTS, AND EVEN THE BASIC APPROACHES OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

+IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, LAND DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, AN APPROACH THAT CONTINUES TO IGNORE OR PAYS ONLY SCANT ATTENTION TO THESE FINER POINTS AND BASIC APPROACHES WILL ALIENATE THE SUPPORT AND SYMPATHY THE POLICY HAS WON,+ HE SAID. —BERNAMA MORE 1541/MD

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NO47 (F)

MAHATHIR - MIC 6 KUALA LUMPUR

TAN SRI MANICKAVASAGAM, WHO IS ALSO MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, SAID THERE WAS A NEED TO BE CONCERNED WITH TWO OTHER MAJOR ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO THE NATION AND PEOPLE — THE EMERGENCE OF A NATIONAL CULTURE AND THE GRANTING OF CITIZENSHIP.

HOWEVER, THERE WAS NOW WIDESPREAD DISSATISFACTION AMONG THE PEOPLE OVER THE LACK OF +A CLEAR-CUT DIRECTION IN THESE REGARDS+ ALTHOUGH THERE WAS ABUNDANT SCOPE TO USE THESE TO THE BENEFIT OF NATIONAL UNITY AND RESILIENCE.

+AS A RESULT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONCERN AMONG THE PEOPLE OVER THE LACK OF SENSITIVITY IN THE NATIONAL RADIO AND TELEVISION MEDIA TO THE CULTURAL NEEDS OF THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE ALL MADE MALAYSIA THEIR ONE AND ONLY HOME,+ HE SAID.

HE FELT THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR +WELL-THOUGHT OUT AND WIDELY ACCEPTED CODE AND SET OF CONCEPTS IN OUR MEDIA WHICH RESPOND TO THESE NEEDS+. —BERNAMA MORE 1551/MD

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NO48

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MAHATHIR - MIC 7 KUALA LUMPUR

ON CITIZENSHIPS, HE SAID THAT THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF DISSATISFACTION AND FRUSTRATION AMONG MANY PEOPLE WHO WERE IN ALL RESPECTS QUALIFIED FOR THE BASIC RIGHT OF CITIZENSHIP.

THERE WERE MANY CASES OF ENTITLEMENT FOR CITIZENSHIP UNDER VARIOUS CLAUSES OF THE CONSTITUTION WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN RELEGATED TO THE CATEGORY OF +ELIGIBILITY+ SUBJECT TO DISCRETION.

A NUMBER OF SUCH CASES HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE HOME MINISTRY, BUT LITTLE RELIEF HAD BEEN OBTAINED.

HE SAID THE MIC URGED FOR THE WHOLE PROCESS OF CITIZENSHIP TO BE LOOKED AT AS THE HARSHNESS IT HAD CAUSED AFFECTED FAMILIES AS WELL AS THE WEIGHT EVERY GENUINE APPLICATION CARRIED.

THE MIC SOCIO-ECONOMIC BLUEPRINT DRAWN UP IN 1974 IDENTIFIED THE PROBLEMS AND OUTLINED MIC'S ROLE IN OVERCOMING THEM THROUGH LONG-TERM PROGRAMMES ALONGSIDE THE GOVERNMENT'S OWN PLAN UNDER THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY. —BERNAMA MORE 1610/MD

MAHATHIR - MIC 8 KUALA LUMPUR

IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, THE MIC HAD INITIATED AT NATIONAL AND STATE-LEVELS A SERIES OF TUITION CLASSES AND RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES FOR RURAL STUDENTS IN THE URBAN AREAS.

TAN SRI MANICKAVASAGAM ALSO PLEDGED THE FULL SUPPORT AND LOYALTY OF THE MIC AND MALAYSIAN INDIANS TO THE GOVERNMENT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DATUK HUSSEIN ONN.

ABOUT 800 DELEGATES FROM MIC BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ARE ATTENDING THE TWO-DAY GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY WERE UMNO SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK SENU ABDUL RAHMAN, NATIONAL FRONT SECRETARY-GENERAL ENCIK GHAFAR BABA, THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF GERAKAN DR. LIM KHENG YAİK AND MCA REPRESENTATIVE, RUAN ROSEMARY CHONG. —BERNAMA 1614/MD