

MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 20 (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT THERE WAS STILL A LINGERING CAMPAIGN TO FRUSTRATE THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY AND HE ADVISED THOSE PEOPLE CONCERNED TO GIVE IT UP.

+YOU ARE NOT DOING ANY GOOD FOR YOURSELF OR THE COUNTRY,+ THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID AT A SEMINAR HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD SHOWN ITS WILLINGNESS TO MODIFY AND ADJUST THE APPROACH AND THE MEANS BUT IT WOULD NOT BE DEFLECTED FROM ITS OBJECTIVE OF ERADICATING POVERTY AND RESTRUCTURING SOCIETY.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES BECAUSE IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE STABILITY AND HARMONY AND GROWTH IN MALAYSIA.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR ON THE +NEW ECONOMIC POLICY — THE FINANCIAL, CORPORATE AND TAX IMPLICATIONS OF CORPORATE RESTRUCTURING TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEP.+ — BERNAMA MORE 1520/YF

MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE NEP WAS MEANT TO REDUCE THE KIND OF DISPARITIES THAT LEAD TO TENSIONS BETWEEN RACES IN MALAYSIA AND POSSIBLY THE RECURRENCE OF THE 1969 RIOTS.

HE SAID BUSINESS THRIVED ON PEACE AND STABILITY AND THEREFORE THE NEP WAS GOOD FOR BUSINESS EVEN IF IT IMPOSED ALL KINDS OF RESTRICTIONS.

HE SAID: +IT IS FAR BETTER TO PUT UP WITH THESE RESTRICTION THEN TO HAVE INSTABILITY. THE CHOICE IS BETWEEN HALF A LOAF AND NO BREAD. SURELY THE WISE BUSINESSMEN WILL CHOOSE HALF A LOAF.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT ALTOGETHER ALTRULSTIC IN THE FORMULATION AND APPLICATION OF THE NEP BECAUSE PEACE AND STABILITY WAS ALSO GOOD FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

+I HAVE GONE TO SOME LENGTH TO EXPLAIN THE INEVITABILITY OF AN ECONOMIC POLICY AND THAT IT MUST BE RESTRICTIVE,+ HE TOLD THE DELEGATES,+ HE SAID.

+THE PURPOSE IS TO GET YOU TO RECONCILE YOURSELF TO IT. ONCE A PERSON IS RECONCILED TO THE INEVITABLE, HE CEASES TO STRUGGLE USELESSLY AGAINST IT.

+INSTEAD HE TRIES TO WORK WITH IT AND INVARIABLY HE FINDS THAT IT IS NOT ONLY EASY AND PROFITABLE BUT REALLY HIS PAST IDEAS WERE MISCONCEIVED.+ — BERNAMA MORE 1524/YF

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MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT FOREIGN COMPANIES HAD LARGELY RECONCILED THEMSELVES WITH THE NEP AND WERE ALREADY BENEFITTING BY IT.

HE SAID: +INDEED, SOME OF THEM HAVE TURNED THE RESTRICTIVE CONDITIONS INTO ASSETS WHICH HELP THEM TOWARDS GREATER SUCCESS.

+THE LOCAL BUSINESSMEN TOO CAN DO THE SAME UNLESS OF COURSE THEY ARE TRULY INFERIOR AND QUITE INCAPABLE OF DOING WHAT FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN CAN DO.+

HE TOLD THE PARTICIPANTS THAT THEIR DISCUSSION WOULD ONLY BE FRUITFUL IF THEY ATTENDED TO ADJUSTMENT TO THE POLICY +RATHER THAN TO CLAMOUR FOR POLICY TO BE ADJUSTED TO YOUR NEEDS. — BERNAMA 1526/YF