

MAHATHIR
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18 (12)
KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 13 (BERNAMA) — (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID TODAY A STUDY SHOULD BE MADE ON THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING CRAFTSMANSHIP A NATIONAL HERITAGE.

THIS, HE SAID, WAS BEING PRACTISED BY ONE EASTERN COUNTRY WHICH PROVIDED SPECIAL TREATMENT TO SUCH CRAFTSMEN TO ENABLE THEM TO PRESERVE THEIR SKILLS.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA ALSO NEEDED TO STUDY THE SUBJECT IF IT DID NOT WISH TO SEE SUCH SKILLS BEING LOST TO THE COMMUNITY.

LAUNCHING A BOOK ON THE LIVING CRAFTS OF MALAYSIA AND AN EXHIBITION OF THE SAME TITLE AT THE MUZIUM NEGARA HERE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD SET UP THE HANDICRAFTS BOARD.

THE BOARD HAD THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND THE AUTHORITY TO PRESERVE THE SKILLS AND TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFTS AND TO OBTAIN NEW MARKETS FOR THEM.

— BERNAMA MORE 1748/YF
MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HOWEVER, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FUTURE OF MALAYSIAN HANDICRAFTS NEED NOT NECESSARILY BE THAT OF THE BOARD OR ITS MARKETING AGENCY ALONE, HE SAID.

UNIVERSITIES, BANKS, COMPANIES AND OTHER PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS SHOULD ALSO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE.

HE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT BUILDINGS IN THE COUNTRY DID NOT HAVE A MALAYSIAN CHARACTER AND IDENTITY.

THIS COULD POSSIBLY BE DUE TO THE FACT THAT MANY ARCHITECTS IN THE COUNTRY WERE TRAINED IN THE WEST AND DID NOT ATTEND COURSES ON LOCAL CRAFTS AND DESIGNS AND WAYS TO ADAPT THEM TO THE MATERIALS AND FORMS OF MODERN BUILDINGS.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE ART OF HANDICRAFTS BE MADE A SUBJECT FOR ALL ARCHITECTS REGISTERED IN MALAYSIA.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT A COMPETITION BE HELD FOR BUILDING DESIGNS THAT REFLECTED THE MALAYSIAN IDENTITY. — BERNAMA