

MAHATHIR-RINGGIT 2

FROM K. PALASUBRAMANIAM

SINGAPORE, JUNE 12 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT WILL RESIST ANY PRESSURE TO REVALUE THE MALAYSIAN RINGGIT, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID HERE TODAY.

HE ADDED THAT IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO MAINTAIN THE VALUE OF THE RINGGIT AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

HE EXPLAINED THAT ANY REVALUATION OF THE MALAYSIAN RINGGIT WOULD FORCE MALAYSIAN PRODUCTS OUT OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET AND THIS THE GOVERNMENT VERY MUCH WANTED TO AVOID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS ANSWERING QUESTIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS OF THE TWO-DAY MALAYSIAN INVESTMENT SEMINAR SPONSORED BY MALAYAN BANKING BERHAD AND THE MALAYSIAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MIDA) AT A LEADING HOTEL HERE.

ABOUT 300 PARTICIPANTS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN SINGAPORE AND 50 FROM MALAYSIA ARE ATTENDING THE SEMINAR WHICH IS AIMED AT PROMOTING MALAYSIA AS AN INVESTMENT CENTRE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, SAID MALAYSIA WAS STILL EMPHASISING ON LABOUR INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES AS THERE WAS NO SHORTAGE OF LABOUR. — BERNAMA MORE 1851/LK

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N125: (F)

MAHATHIR-RINGGIT 2 SINGAPORE

BUT WHEN THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPPED FURTHER, MORE SOPHISTICATED INDUSTRIES WOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

EARLIER IN HIS ADDRESS AT THE SEMINAR, HE REITERATED THAT THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY SPECIFIED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DELIBERATELY STIMULATE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

OUT OF THESE, THE MULTIPUTRAS WERE TO BE ACCORDED A PROPORTION THAT WOULD EVENTUALLY CORRECT EXISTING IMBALANCES.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY, HE SAID, WAS FLEXIBLE AND GRADUAL AND CARE WAS TAKEN TO AVOID THE SLOWING DOWN OF ECONOMIC EXPANSION. 107

HE ALSO STRESSED THAT THE TWIN OBJECTIVES OF THE NEP — ERADICATION OF POVERTY IRRESPECTIVE OF RACE AND REDUCTION OF ECONOMIC IMBALANCES BETWEEN RACES AND REGIONS — WERE TO BE ACHIEVED THROUGH GROWTH. — BERNAMA MORE 1857/LK

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N126: (F)

MAHATHIR-RINGGIT 3 SINGAPORE

+THERE WILL BE NO NATIONALISATION OR EXPROPRIATION ALTHOUGH LEGITIMATE ACQUISITION THROUGH PURCHASES OF SHARES MAY BE DONE,+ HE STRESSED.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALSO ELABORATED ON CERTAIN POLICIES AND GUIDELINES THAT HAD BEEN DECIDED FOR EQUITY PARTICIPATION IN INVESTMENTS IN MALAYSIA.

SOME COMPANIES, HE SAID, HAD EXPRESSED FEAR THAT THOUGH INITIALLY THEY MIGHT BE APPROVED WITH AN EQUITY CONDITION ACCEPTABLE TO THEM, THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT AFTER SEVERAL YEARS DECIDE TO CHANGE THE EQUITY CONDITION IN FAVOUR OF MALAYSIANS.

HOWEVER HE ALLAYED SUCH FEARS AND STRESSED +THIS HAS NOT HAPPENED AND WILL NOT HAPPEN IN MALAYSIA.+

ON MALAYSIA'S PETROLEUM POTENTIAL, HE SAID THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT WAS INTERESTED IN SETTING UP A PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRY +BUT OUR IMMEDIATE INTEREST IS IN THE UTILIZATION OF FLARED GAS EITHER FOR ELECTRICITY, METHANOL OR LIQUEFACTIONS OR ANYTHING THAT WILL PUT OUT THE FLARES.+ — BERNAMA MORE 1002/LK

MAHATHIR-RINGGIT 4 SINGAPORE 金'金'金'

HE ADDED THAT MALAYSIA'S LNG PROJECT IN BINTULU WOULD BE ON STREAM BY 1983.

THERE WERE ALSO MORE GAS FIELDS OF THE EAST COAST OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA WHICH WOULD NOT BE EXPLOITED FOR A LONG TIME YET.

NEVERTHELESS, HE ADDED THAT THE POTENTIAL FOR GAS AS FEEDSTOCK FOR PETROCHEMICALS WAS OF CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE FOR INVESTORS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HOPED COMPANIES IN SINGAPORE WOULD TURN TO MALAYSIA WHEN THEY HAD PLANS FOR EXPANDING THEIR OPERATIONS AND ESTABLISHING OTHER OFF-SHORE MANUFACTURING UNITS.

HE TOLD THE SINGAPORE INVESTORS THAT IT WAS LOGICAL AND ECONOMICALLY SOUND FOR THEM TO LOCATE THEIR FACILITIES IN MALAYSIA.
— BERNAMA MORE 1911/LK

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M128: (F)

MAHATHIR-RINGGIT 5 SINGAPORE 金'金'金'

IN FACT IT WAS FAR BETTER AND MORE PROFITABLE TO DO THIS THAN TO IMPORT LABOUR AND GIVE THEM COSTLY INCENTIVES WHICH WOULD INCREASE THEIR COSTS.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TOGETHER WITH HIS 15-MEMBER DELEGATION COMPRISING SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS LATER ANSWERED QUERIES FROM THE POTENTIAL INVESTORS. — BERNAMA