

MAHATHIR-EXPO

7a (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, AUG. 17 (BERNAMA) — AN EXPORT TRADE CENTRE TO SERVE AS A FOCAL POINT FOR MALAYSIAN EXPORTERS TO OBTAIN UP-TO-DATE MARKETING INFORMATION

WILL BECOME OPERATIONAL BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

DISCLOSING THIS TODAY, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID THE PROPOSED CENTRE TO BE LOCATED IN THE CITY'S COMMERCIAL DISTRICT WOULD HELP MALAYSIAN EXPORTERS GAIN ACCESS TO WORLD MARKETS FOR THEIR PRODUCTS.

THE CENTRE WOULD ALSO SERVE VISITING FOREIGN BUYERS BY ASSISTING THEM TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH LOCAL SUPPLIERS OF PRODUCTS.

OPENING THE EXPO MALAYSIA 79 ORGANISED BY THE FEDERATION OF MALAYSIAN MANUFACTURERS AT CHANGKAT PAVILION HERE, HE SAID THE CENTRE'S FACILITIES WOULD INCLUDE A LARGE AREA FOR EXHIBITIONS AND DISPLAYS FOR PRODUCT PROMOTION AND A SUITABLE ROOM FOR SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, SAID HE HOPED THAT THE LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY WOULD ASSIST AND CO-OPERATE IN EFFORTS TO ENABLE THE CENTRE CARRY OUT ITS FUNCTIONS EFFECTIVELY. — BERNAMA MORE 1933/ZCM

NO95: (F)
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HE ALSO REASSURED INVESTORS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT THE INDUSTRIAL CO-ORDINATION ACT (ICA) +WITH AS MUCH FLEXIBILITY AS THE PRESENT POLICY PERMITS.+

THE GOVERNMENT, HE POINTED OUT, WAS SATISFIED THAT THE ACT AS IT EXISTED SERVED THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE NATION.

THERE WERE ALSO INDICATIONS THAT THE ACT HAD FOUND WIDER ACCEPTANCE AMONG BOTH LOCAL AND FOREIGN INVESTORS.

+I HAVE ALSO DISCERNED A GRADUAL CHANGE OF HEART ON THE PART OF ONE PARTICULAR SECTION OF THE LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY WHICH INITIALLY HAD WANTED THE ACT TO BE REPEALED,+ HE STRESSED.

HE EMPHASISED THAT THE SECOND SET OF AMENDMENTS TO THE ACT, BY PARLIAMENT RECENTLY, HAD INCORPORATED MORE LIBERAL PROVISIONS, INCLUDING A MORE FLEXIBLE AND PRAGMATIC APPROACH IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

+THESE WERE THE RESULT OF A SINCERE AND GENUINE EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT TO ACCOMODATE THE VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

+THESE AMENDMENTS, HOWEVER, DO NOT IN ANY WAY DEVIATE FROM THE ORIGINAL BASIC OBJECTIVES OF THE ACT WHICH ARE TO REGULATE THE ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIES, TO ASSIST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INDUSTRIALISATION POLICIES AND TO FACILITATE THE COLLECTION OF INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION,+ HE STRESSED. — BERNAMA MORE 1936/ZCM

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR WHICH HAD BEEN ASSIGNED A STRATEGIC ROLE IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY GOALS, CONTINUED TO GROW FAIRLY STRONGLY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE YEAR.

THE BOUYANCY OF THE SECTOR WAS REFLECTED IN THE GREATER AMOUNT OF BANK CREDIT FOR MANUFACTURING WHICH HAD INCREASED BY 33.5 PER CENT OVER THE LEVEL AT THE END OF THE FIRST QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

THE HIGH LEVEL OF MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THE YEAR WAS SUSTAINED BY EXPORTS OF MANUFACTURERS WHICH INCREASED BY 52 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH EXPORTS DURING THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

MOST CATEGORIES OF MANUFACTURED EXPORTS RECORDED HIGHER GROWTH RATES IN RESPONSE TO BETTER OVERSEAS DEMAND, PARTICULARLY ELECTRONIC GOODS, TEXTILES AND WOOD PRODUCTS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID: "IN FACT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE SECTOR HAS BEEN MOST ENCOURAGING IN TERMS OF ITS CONTRIBUTION TO EXPORTS.

LAST YEAR THE GROSS EXPORTS OF MANUFACTURES WHICH AMOUNTED TO \$3,614 MILLION ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT 21.2 PER CENT OF TOTAL EXPORTS - THE COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1977 WERE \$2,810 MILLION AND 18.7 PER CENT, HE ADDED. — BERNAMA MORE 1935/A1

NO97: (F)
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EARLIER, FIM PRESIDENT TUNKU TAN SRI MOHAMED BIN TUNKU BESAR BURHANUDDIN CALLED FOR THE SETTING UP OF AN EXHIBITION CENTRE OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARD.

HE SAID SUCH A CENTRE WOULD PROVIDE A FITTING LANDMARK TO THE COMMERCIAL CENTRE OF THE COUNTRY, BESIDES MEETING THE GROWING NEEDS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITIES.

TUNKU TAN SRI MOHAMAD STRESSED THAT THE FEDERATION, WITH THE BENEFIT OF ITS EXPERIENCE IN STAGING EXHIBITIONS OVER THE LAST DECADE, WAS CONVINCED THAT THE CITY BADLY NEEDED SUCH A CENTRE.

HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THE WINNERS OF THE EXPO MALAYSIA AWARD FOR NEW AND IMPROVED PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT.

THEY ARE RALEIGH CYCLES (M) BHD, KULITKRAF SDN. BHD, SELANGOR PEWTER, ALATPERTANIAN SDN. BHD, ICI PAINTS (M) SDN. BHD AND GOODYEAR MALAYSIA BHD.

SEVEN COMPANIES WON THE EXPO MALAYSIA EXPORT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS - YODOSHI MALLEABLE SDN. BHD, BATA MALAYSIA, MATSUSHITA INDUSTRIAL CORP. SDN. BHD, SELANGOR PEWTER, UNITED FURNITURE INTERNATIONAL SDN. BHD, RALEIGH CYCLES AND PALMCO HOLDINGS SDN. BHD.

A TOTAL OF 85 FIRMS ARE TAKING PART IN THE EXPO WHICH ENDS ON SEPT. 2.

AN EXHIBITION ON HOBBIES, CAREER AND SELF-EMPLOYMENT ORGANISED BY THE RUKUNTETANGGA SECRETARIAT AND THE MALAYSIAN VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE ASSOCIATION IS ALSO BEING HELD AT THE EXPO. — BERNAMA