

RIASEAN

EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 8 P.M. TODAY: DEC 7

79 P
KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 7 (BERNAMA) — RUBBER MANUFACTURERS IN ASEAN COUNTRIES SHOULD TAP THE ENORMOUS SCOPE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RUBBER MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES WITHIN THE REGION, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID HERE TONIGHT.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH ASEAN COUNTRIES SUPPLIED ABOUT 84 PER CENT OF THE WORLD'S NATURAL RUBBER, ITS USAGE AMONG THE ASEAN COUNTRIES WAS STILL SMALL.
N +ASEAN COUNTRIES WOULD CERTAINLY BE HAVING LOCATIONAL ADVANTAGE IN THE MANUFACTURING OF RUBBER.

+WE HAVE THE RAW MATERIALS, WE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY AND WE HAVE THE MANPOWER AND SKILLS IN THE RUBBER INDUSTRY,+ HE SAID IN A SPEECH AT THE RUBBER INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH-EAST ASIAN NATION (RIASEAN) DINNER.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, HOPED THAT ASEAN, APART FROM BEING THE WORLD'S BIGGEST SUPPLIER OF NATURAL RUBBER, WOULD ALSO BE AN IMPORTANT CENTRE X FOR THE MANUFACTURING OF RUBBER PRODUCTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

SPEECH WAS DELIVERED BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, DATUK LEW SIP HON.

DATUK SERI DR. MAMATHIR SAID THAT IT WAS ASEAN'S INTENTION TO MANUFACTURE MORE PRODUCTS BOTH FOR HOME CONSUMPTION AS WELL AS FOR EXPORTS. — BERNAMA MORE 1910/1B

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HE SAID THAT MALAYSIA HAD ALWAYS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF INDUSTRIES BASED ON LOCAL RESOURCES, ESPECIALLY RUBBER.
DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID ASEAN'S BUSINESSMEN SHOULD ALSO LOOK SERIOUSLY TOWARDS EXPANDING INTRA-ASEAN TRADE IN VIEW OF THE ATTRACTIVE MARKET IN THE REGION AND POSITIVE SIGNS THAT THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCH TRADE WOULD BE RECOGNISED.
TO DATE, 2,327 ITEMS WERE EXCHANGED UNDER THE TARIFF PREFERENCES AGREEMENT (TPA).

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DELIVED THAT TRADE OFFICIALS OF ALL ASEAN COUNTRIES SHOULD WORK SLOSELY WITH ASEAN INDUSTRY BODIES SUCH AS RIASEAN SO AS TO ASSIST THEM IN IDENTIFYING PRODUCTS FOR INCLUSION IN THE TPA SCHEME.

THIS WAS IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF THE ALMOST SIMILAR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BY ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIEES FOR EXPORT. SEVERAL RUBBER PRODUCTS WERE ALREADY EXCHANGED AND INCLUDED IN THE SCHEME'S LIST. -- BERNAMA MORE 1915/1B

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RIASEAN'S INCOMING CHAIRMAN, ENCIK LIM BENG HUAT, SAID INTRA-ASEAN TRADE WHICH WAS STILL IN ITS INFANCY WOULD BE GIVEN A BOOST BY THE ACCELERATED ASEAN-PTA SCHEME.

+AS A RAW MATERIAL SUPPLYING REGION IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT WE YHOULD WANT TO SEE MORE VALUE ADDED TO THE EXPLRTS WE SEND OUT FROM THIS AREA,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT ONE METHOD WAS TO MOVE INTO PROCESSING AND MANUFACTURING OF THE RAW MATERIAL BEFORE EXPORTING IT.

EARLIER TODAY, RIASEAN BEGAN A TWO-DAY MEETING TO PLAN COMPLEMENTATION AND PREFERENTIAL TARIFF PROGRAMMES IN RUBBER

PRODUCTS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1918/1B

NO88 (F)

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ENCIK LIM SAID THE MEETING WOULD ALLOW THE RUBBER INDUSTRIALISTS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR OF ASEAN NATIONS TO DISCUSS COMMON PROBLEMS.

+RIASEAN IS DEDICATED TO SEE TO THE GROWTH OF THE RUBBER MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN MEMBER COUNTRIES AND TO INCREASING INTRA-ASEAN TRADE,+ SAID ENCIK L M.

HE ADDED RIASEAN ALSO ACTIVELY SUPPORGED AND ENCOURAGED THE SETTING UP OF SUPPORTING INDUSTRIES IN THE REGION SUCH AS RUBBER CHEMICALS. -- BERNAMA 1922/1B