

MAHATHIR  
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KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 15 (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY STRESSED THE NEED FOR GREATER CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE TRAINING OF THE NATION'S NEEDED MANPOWER.

HE SAID THERE WAS ALSO A NEED FOR A GREATER USE BY THE SECTOR OF THE ALREADY AVAILABLE FACILITIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUCH TRAINING.

LAUNCHING THE MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT BOARD HERE, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID UNLESS SUCH A MOVE WAS TAKEN BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR VOLUNTARILY, THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE FORCED TO TAKE STRICTER MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THE MANPOWER PROBLEM WOULD NO LONGER BE A LINDERANCE TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER AND SKILLED WORKERS IN THE LOCAL LABOUR MARKET HAD BEEN A PRESSING PROBLEM COMMONLY FELT BY EMPLOYERS.

HE FELT THAT THIS PROBLEM MIGHT BE CREATED PARTLY BY THE ATTITUDE OF SKILLED JOB-SEEKERS WHO TENDED TO BE TOO CHOOSY ABOUT JOBS AND DEMANDED TOO HIGH A SALARY. —BERNAMA MORE 1755/MD  
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THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THERE WERE STILL MANY REGISTERED JOB-SEEKERS WHO DID NOT RECEIVE ANY JOB OFFERS BY LOCAL EMPLOYERS WHILE THESE EMPLOYERS WERE COMPLAINING ABOUT NOT HAVING SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF THEM IN THE LABOUR MARKET.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY AWARE THAT THE NUMBER OF WORKERS CAPABLE OF BEING TRAINED WAS ALWAYS SMALLER THAN THE NUMBER NEEDED BY THE NATION TO CARRY OUT ITS DEVELOPMENT.

THE PRESENT TRTRAINING FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS COULD ONLY CATER TO BETWEEN 25,000 TO 30,000 WORKERS AGAINST THE OVERALL NATIONAL MANPOWER REQUIREMENT OF 72,000 WORKERS FROM 1981 TO 1990.

+THIS SITUATION IS INDEAD CAUSING A GREAT CONCERN IF WE WANT OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES TO MOVE AT A TEMPO WE HAVE ALREADY PLANNED+, HE STRESSED. —BERNAMA MORE 1800/MD

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID 1980 WHICH WAS JUST AROUND THE CORNER WOULD MARK THE END OF THE FIRST 10 YEAR PERIOD IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

+HOWEVER, IF WE WERE TO ANALYSE OUR PERFORMANCES UNDER THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE SHORTFALL SUFFERED ESPECIALLY IN 1977 WAS PARTLY DUE TO THE SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECTS APPROVED FOR THAT YEAR+, HE SAID.

TO A SIMILAR PROBLEM UNDER THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN, MORE SYSTEMATIC AND EFFECTIVE AND INTERGRATED MANPOWER TRAINING PROGRAMMES OUGHT TO BE DESIGNED FROM NOW, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT ON ITS PART WAS TAKING STEPS TO REDUCE THE GAP BETWEEN MANPOWER SUPPLY AND DEMAND.

IT WAS ENVISAGED THAT BY THE END OF THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE SET UP 10 INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTES, 19 MARA VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTES, 48 VOCATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS, SEVEN POLYTECHNICS, FOUR YOUTH TRAINING CENTRES AND SIX AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTES. —BERNAMA MORE 1806/MD  
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ALL THE INSTITUTES WERE EXPECTED TO PRODUCE BETWEEN 20,000 TO 30,000 SKILLED WORKERS PER YEAR.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ANTICIPATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE CAPABILITY OF THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO ABSORB THESE WORKERS WOULD STILL BE LIMITED.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE PRIVATE SECTOR SHOULD BE WILLING TO ABSORB MORE OF THEM, HE SAID.

THE LABOUR AND MANPOWER MINISTER, DATUK RICHARD HO, IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD SAID THE BOARD'S APPROVAL AND SUPPORT WERE NEEDED BEFORE ANY AGENCIES COULD BEGIN NEW TRAINING PROGRAMMES OR MAKE MAJOR CHANGES ON THEIR EXISTING TRAINING PROGRAMMES. —BERNAMA 1813/MD