

MAHATHIR - FMM

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 19²⁰ (BERNAMA) — THE CASUAL AND UNINHIBITED IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN WORKERS IS NOT A REALISTIC SOLUTION TO LABOUR PROBLEM THAT IS BEING FACED BY THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN THE COUNTRY. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID HERE TONIGHT.

HE SAID THIS WAS ESPECIALLY SO WHEN MALAYSIA STILL HAD AN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 5.3 PER CENT.

HE MADE THE COMMENT IN REPLY TO A CALL BY STATE COMMITTEES OF THE FEDERATION OF MALAYSIAN MANUFACTURERS FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO HELP CURB THE EXPORT OF LABOUR TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, LIKE SINGAPORE; AS WELL AS TO ALLOW THE IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN WORKERS.

SEPAKING AT THE FEDERATION'S ANNUAL DINNER, HE SAID HE RECOGNISED THE FACT THAT COMPANIES IN HIGHLY DEVELOPED URBAN CENTRES IN MALAYSIA MAY BE CONFRONTED WITH A TIGHT LABOUR MARKET.

+HOWEVER, ABUNDANT LABOUR STILL EXISTS IN STATES SUCH AS KELANTAN, TRENGGANU AND PAHANG+, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, URGED ALL LOCAL AND FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS OPERATING HERE TO LOOK TO AREAS OUTSIDE OF DEVELOPED URBAN CENTRES FOR THEIR EXPANSION PROGRAMMES. —BERNAMA MORE 2210/MD

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THE GOVERNMENT GAVE EVERY INCENTIVE AND SUPPORT TO ENABLE COMPANIES TO LOCATE IN LESS DEVELOPED AREAS.

FOR COMPANIES REMAINING IN THE URBAN CENTRES, HE SUGGESTED THAT THEY LOOK TOWARDS UPGRADING THEIR TECHNOLOGY, INCREASED CAPITALIZATION AND INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY WITHIN THEIR WORK FORCE.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THEY EXAMINE THE WAGES THAT THEY PAY AND COMPARE THEM WITH THOSE IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

+WHILE WE DO NOT EXPECT THE SAME LEVEL OF WAGES FOR OUR WORKERS, WE DO EXPECT THE DIFFERENCE TO BE WITHIN REASONABLE LIMITS, + SAID DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR.

HE ALSO TOLD WORKERS AND LABOUR LEADERS THAT WHEREAS LABOUR WAS ENTITLED TO AND SHOULD LOOK TOWARDS INCREASED WAGES AND BENEFITS, THESE SHOULD BE REALISTIC AND IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE COMPANIES CONCERNED.

+IF THERE ARE UREALISTIC DEMANDS FOR WAGES, FOR LEISURE AND FOR INCREASED BENEFITS, THEN MALAYSIA WILL BE IN DANGER OF PLACING ITSELF IN THE SAME POSITION AS SOME OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHERE ACTIVITIES OF LABOUR UNIONS ARE CAUSING MIGRATION OF INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS FROM THESE COUNTRIES TO COUNTRIES LIKE MALAYSIA, HE ADDED. —BERNAMA MORE 2217/MD

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ON THE FMM, HE EXPECTED IT AS A LEADING REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MANUFACTURING COMMUNITY TO UNDERTAKE ACTIVITIES SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, WHICH ORGANISED AN INVESTMENT CONFERENCE IN SINGAPORE OR OTHER DYNAMIC ACTIVITIES.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE FEDERATION ORGANISE AN INVESTMENT MISSION TO WEST GERMANY ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE IN RESPONSE TO THE STEPS THAT THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN IN HAVING INVESTMENT SEMINARS IN THAT COUNTRY AND THE FOLLOW-UP VISIT OF THE GERMAN INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO CALLED ON THE FEDERATION TO STRIVE TO ATTAIN A CERTAIN STANDARD IN THE QUALITY OF MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS OF NOT ONLY ITS MEMBERS, BUT ALSO THOSE WHO WERE NOT ITS MEMBERS.

+YOU SHOULD EVOLVE A SYSTEM WHEREBY MEMBERSHIP OF THE FEDERATION OF MALAYSIAN MANUFACTURERS SHOULD BE SYNONMOUS WITH THE MANUFACTURE OF PRODUCTS OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND QUALITY+, HE SAID.

+THE FMM SHOULD LAUNCH SUCH PROGRAMMES WITHIN MALAYSIA AND AROUND THE WORLD TO CREATE A SENSE OF PRIDE IN THE LABEL +MADE IN MALAYSIA+.

+YOU SHOULD ATTEMPT TO FORMULATE PROGRAMMES OF ACTION THAT IF SUCCESSFUL WILL OBIVATE THE NEED FOR MALAYSIAN MANUFACTURERS TO HIDE THEIR ORIGINAL FEAR OF INTERNATIONAL MARKET ACCEPTABILITY.+ —BERNAMA MORE 2224/MD

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HOPED THE FMM WOULD ADOPT THE THEME OF INTERNATIONAL QUALITY FOR MALAYSIAN PRODUCTS IN THE 1980S.

+IT SHOULD BE YOUR OBJECTIVE THAT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS THE +MADE IN MALAYSIA+ LABEL WILL BE THE LABEL OF PRIDE AND DIGNITY REFLECTING A QUALITY NO LESS THAN THAT EXPECTED FROM DEVELOPED NATIONS,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT AS MALAYSIA REACHED HER TARGET TO BECOME AN INDUSTRIALISED NATION BY 1990, SHE WOULD BE FACING NEW PROBLEMS AND NEW CHALLENGES.

+THE INCREASING IMPACT OF WESTERN THOUGHT, SCIENCE, AND WAYS OF LIFE, WHILE HAVING ITS POSITIVE IMPACT, CAN ALSO BE EXPECTED TO BRING IN ITS WAKE THE NEGATIVE INFLUENCE OF MODERN LIVING,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF NOT ONLY THE MANUFACTURERS AND THE LEADERS OF INDUSTRY BUT ALSO THE LABOUR LEADERS AND OTHERS WHO LEAD VARIOUS GROUPS, SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS IN MALAYSIA TO PROMOTE THE PROPER TRAINING AND ORIENTATION OF THE MALAYSIAN PEOPLE WHO WERE UNDER THEIR RESPONSIBILITY. —BERNAMA 2229/MD