

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 4 (BERNAMA)—DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED ON THE LIMITED NUMBER OF RESEARCH PERSONNEL AVAILABLE IN THE COUNTRY TO CONCENTRATE THEIR EFFORTS ON DEVELOPMENTS THAT WOULD BE OF DIRECT NATIONAL BENEFIT.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT IF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES WERE UNDERTAKEN ONLY TO END UP IN THE SHELVES AND ARCHIVES OF MALAYSIAN UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS, THEN SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE DEPLORED IF NOT ABANDONED.

HE WAS OPENING A THREE-DAY NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON COOPERATION AMONG INDUSTRIES, RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS AND UNIVERSITIES, HERE.

HE SAID MALAYSIA COULD NOT ALLOW HERSELF THE LUXURY OF RESEARCH PURELY TO FULFILL THE ACADEMIC ASPIRATIONS OF THOSE UNDERTAKING DOCTORATES AND OTHER ACADEMIC PURSUITS.

+THOUGH THESE UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE, MODERN MALAYSIA NEEDS MORE.+

+WE NEED TO HAVE OUR LIMITED NUMBER OF RESEARCH PERSONNEL CONCENTRATED ON DEVELOPMENTS THAT WILL BE OF DIRECT NATIONAL BENEFIT+, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR TOLD PARTICIPANTS AT THE WORKSHOP, WHICH IS JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE MALAYSIAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MIDA) AND UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA (UTM).—BERNAMA MORE 1517/AH

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, SUGGESTED THAT RESEARCHERS CONCENTRATE ON THE PECULIARITIES OF TROPICAL CONDITIONS TO IDENTIFY NEW APPLICATIONS OF RESOURCES.

HE SAID THAT IT WAS HERE THAT INDUSTRIES COULD INDICATE TO RESEARCHERS THE LIKELY AREAS FOR SURELY DESIGNS MEANT FOR TEMPERATE CLIMATES MUST CREATE FOR INDUSTRIES PROBLEMS BEGGING FOR SOLUTIONS.

+SO FAR THE APPLICATION OF OUR RESOURCES HAS BEEN DEVELOPED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ABROAD UNDER CONDITIONS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE FOUND IN TROPICAL MALAYSIA.+

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IT WAS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE THAT COOPERATION BE INCREASED BETWEEN INDUSTRIES, RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS AND UNIVERSITIES, TECHNICAL COLLEGES AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS IN ORDER TO UPGRADE MALAYSIAN SKILLS TO FACE NEW CHALLENGES OF THE 1980S.

HE SAID THAT NEW FORCES AND THE LAW OF COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE LARGELY DUE TO THE ENERGY CRISIS AND RELATED FALLOUTS HAVE CREATED NEWER INDUSTRIAL HORIZONS FOR MALAYSIA.—BERNAMA MORE 1522/AH

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IN VIEW OF THIS, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR MALAYSIA TO GO INTO HEAVY INDUSTRIES NOT FOR LOCAL NEEDS BUT TO SERVICE WORLD MARKETS, HE ADDED.

+WITH THIS MALAYSIA MIGHT WELL ENTER A NEW INDUSTRIAL AGE IN WHICH IT TRULY COMPLEMENTS THE INDUSTRIES OF THE DEVELOPED NATIONS, IF THE DEVELOPED NATIONS ACCEPT THE CONCEPT OF AN INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOUR AND MANUFACTURING,+ SAID DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR.

HE SAID THAT IF INDUSTRIES CREATED JOBS THAT REQUIRE SKILLS AND EXPERTISE THAT COULD NOT BE FILLED BY MALAYSIANS, THE FULL BENEFIT OF THE INDUSTRIALISATION PROGRAMME WOULD NOT ACCRUE TO THE NATION.

HE WARNED THAT IT COULD ALSO BECOME A SOURCE OF SERIOUS DISCONTENT AMONG THE EDUCATED YOUTH IF UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS PRODUCED GRADUATES AND DIPLOMA-HOLDERS WHO COULD FIND NO ROLE TO PLAY IN THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY +APART FROM BEING A WASTE OF OUR LIMITED NATIONAL ASSET+.

HE, THEREFORE, CALLED FOR DISCIPLINE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH CAPABILITIES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS REQUIRED BY THE NATION.

+WE CANNOT PLACE OURSELVES IN THE POSITION WHERE SKILLS AND REQUIREMENTS OF A MODERN DEVELOPING MALAYSIA BECOME PROBLEMS THAT WILL HAVE TO BE CONFRONTED AFTER THE EVENT,+ HE EMPHASISED. — BERNAMA MORE 1517/A1

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SUGGESTED THAT UNIVERSITIES, RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS AND INDUSTRIES SET UP THEIR OWN PERMANENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE TO ENSURE A CONTINUING DIALOGUE FROM WHICH BENEFITS WOULD ACCRUE TO ALL SECTORS INVOLVED.

HE SAID THAT MIDA, IN RESPONSE TO THE NATION'S CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF THE 1980S, WOULD ORGANISE A NUMBER OF INVESTMENT SEMINARS WITHIN MALAYSIA TO MAKE MALAYSIAN AND FOREIGN INVESTORS AWARE OF THE POTENTIALS OFFERED WITH THE RESOURCE-BASED SECTORS.

A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR WILL BE HELD IN APRIL TO EXPOSE THE PRIVATE SECTOR TOWARDS OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE WITHIN THE FIVE MAJOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BODIES IN THE COUNTRY.

TWO SEMINARS WILL ALSO BE HELD LATER IN THE YEAR RELATED TO THE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE TIMBER AND RUBBER-BASED INDUSTRIES.

HE, HOWEVER, EMPHASISED THAT MIDA BY ITSELF WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SUCCEED WITHOUT THE NECESSARY BACK-UP FROM THE BANKING AND FINANCIAL SECTORS.

A TOTAL OF EIGHT WORKING PAPERS ARE TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE WORKSHOP. — BERNAMA 1521/A1