

MAHATHIR
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80 P
KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 15 (BERNAMA)—ELECTRONIC FACTORIES SHOULD BE LOCATED IN LESS DEVELOPED AREAS IN THE FUTURE TO CHECK RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION OF YOUNGSTERS, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE FACTORIES MUST BE SITED IN PLACES WHERE THERE WERE UNEMPLOYED YOUNG PEOPLE HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE FACTORY OF THE ASIAN

NDK CRYSTAL SDN BHD IN THE SUNGAI WAY/SUBANG FREE TRADE ZONE.

THE ELECTRONIC S INDUSTRY WAS NOW CONCENTRATED IN THE STATES OF PENANG, SELANGOR, NEGERI SEMBILAN, MALACCA AND JOHORE.

THIS CAUSED THE MIGRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM OTHER AREAS TO THESE STATES IN SEARCH OF EMPLOYMENT AT THE FACTORIES, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, SAID HE FELT THAT THE TIME HAD COME FOR A REVIEW OF THE POSITION OF THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY IN LINE WITH THE NATION'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES IN THE CONTEXT OF ITS ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE 70S AND ITS AIMS IN THE 80S.

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“THESE MEASURES ARE NECESSARY FOR PLANNED AND EQUAL GROWTH FOR THE WHOLE COUNTRY,” HE SAID.

MORE ATTENTION MUST BE GIVEN TO THE SITING OF ELECTRONICS FACTORIES BECAUSE THE INDUSTRY WAS ONE OF THOSE THAT REQUIRED MANY WORKERS AND HAD CONSIDERABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR URGED ELECTRONICS COMPANIES IN THE COUNTRY TO IMPROVE THEIR TECHNOLOGY AND THE SKILLS OF WORKERS TO COMPETE WITH THOSE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY IN THE COUNTRY WAS STILL IN THE PROCES OF GROWING AND MANY ELECTRONICS FACTORIES ONLY MANUFACTURED COMPONENTS FOR VARIOUS GOODS, HE SAID.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GAVE THE ASSURANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALWAYS PROGMATIC AND COMPROMISING IN ENFORCING THE CONDITIONS FOR INVESTMENT IN THE COUNTRY BY ANY FOREIGN COMPANY.

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“WITH COMPROMISE BETWEEN INVESTORS AND THE GOVERNMENT, THE INTERESTS OF BOTH PARTIES CAN BE BETTER SAFEGUARDED,” DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

HE ADVISED MANUFACTURERS TO INTRODUCE THEIR GOODS TO POTENTIAL OVERSEAS INVESTORS THROUGH THE MALAYSIAN EXPORT TRADE CENTRE AT WISMA PKNS HERE.

THE OVERSEAS MARKET SHOULD BE EXPLOITED TO ENSURE THAT THE INDUSTRY COULD DEVELOP, HE SAID.

THE ASIAN NDK COMPANY, WHICH BEGAN OPERATIONS LAST YEAR WITH A \$6 MILLION CAPITAL, EXPORTS ALL ITS GOODS, WHICH ARE IN THE FORM OF QUARTZ CRYSTAL BLANKS AND QUARTZ CRYSTALS, TO JAPAN, THE UNITED STATES, HONG KONG, SINGAPORE AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

THE COMPONENTS ARE USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF COLOUR TV SETS, WATCHES AND MICROPROCESSORS.

THE JAPANESE COMPANY EMPLOYS 480 WORKERS, THE MAJORITY OF WHOM ARE BUMIPUTRAS. THIRTY-FIVE PER CENT OF THE EMPLOYEES IN THE MANAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL LEVEL ARE ALSO BUMIPUTRAS.

—BERNAMA HM 1555