

MAHATHIR - PETROL

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SEREMBAN, MARCH 17 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT MAY LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF PRODUCING PETROL SUBSTITUTE FROM A TYPE OF ROOT PLANT SAID TO PRODUCE ALCOHOL THAT CAN BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE PLANT WAS REPORTED TO PRODUCE ABOUT 300 TIMES MORE ALCOHOL THAN THE TYPE OF SUGAR CANE USED IN AN EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT IN BRAZIL.

ACCORDING TO THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, JAPANESE AND KOREAN INDUSTRIALISTS HAD SUGGESTED THAT MALAYSIA CULTIVATE THE PLANT ON A LARGE SCALE FOR HER PETROL NEEDS.

SPEAKING AT A MEETING WITH ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICERS HERE, HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT STATE GOVERNMENTS TRY TO PLANT +STAVIA+, A CROP FROM SOUTH AMERICA THAT CAN BE USED AS A SUGAR SUBSTITUTE.

THE NEGRI SEMBILAN GOVERNMENT, HE ADDED, HAD SET ASIDE 300 ACRES FOR FIMA TO CARRY OUT THE PROJECT. — BERNAMA MORE 2008/YF

NO97 (F)

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR POINTED OUT THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TWO PROJECTS COULD ARREST THE URBANWARDS MIGRATION OF RURAL YOUTHS.

ON DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID THE SUCCESSES ACHIEVED BY MALAYSIA EACH YEAR HAD SHOT DOWN PESSIMISTIC PREDICTIONS BY +OUTSIDE+ GROUPS THAT WANTED THE COUNTRY TO FAIL IN HER DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

HE URGED ALL ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION STAFF TO UPGRADE THEIR EFFICIENCY AND COMPETENCY SO THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT COULD BE ACHIEVED IN FULL.

GOVERNMENT OFFICERS SHOULD TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR WORK EVEN IF THEY HELD VIEWS DIFFERENT TO THE GOVERNMENT'S FOR THE SAKE OF THE SUCCESS OF DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

LATER, SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE SUNGAI GADUT INDUSTRIAL AREA ABOUT SEVEN MILES FROM HERE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT INTENSIFYING THE GROWTH OF THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TO UPLIFT THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE PEOPLE.

THE SECTOR HAD CREATED 300,000 JOBS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY IN THE PAST 10 YEARS AND HELPED REDUCE THE NUMBER OF THE UNEMPLOYED. --BERNAMA MORE 2032/BY

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER SAID THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR WOULD BE CONTINUED AS THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WOULD BE FACING SHORTAGE OF LAND IN THE FUTURE.

DESPITE THE OPENING OF LAND ON A LARGE SCALE AND THE INTRODUCTION OF MODERN FARMING BY FELDA, THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ABSORB THE INCREASING POPULATION EVERY YEAR.

+AS A WAY OUT, THE GOVERNMENT WILL STEP UP THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL AREA TO ACCOMMODATE THE PEOPLE SO THAT IT CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A BETTER LIVING TO THEM+, HE ADDED.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LABOUR-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES SUCH AS THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY THAT HAD PROVIDED MORE THAN 20,000 JOBS IN THE COUNTRY.

ON FOREIGN ENTERPRISES IN THE COUNTRY, HE HOPED THAT THOSE WHO HAD BENEFITTED FROM THEM AVOIDED ANY ACTION THAT COULD PREJUDICE THE GROWTH OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN MALAYSIA. --BERNAMA

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THE WORKERS SHOULD ENDEAVOUR TO CREATE A CLIMATE CONDUCTIVE TO ATTRACTING MORE FOREIGN INVESTMENTS FOR THE COUNTRY.

THEY SHOULD BE MORE INTERESTED AND INDUSTRIOUS IN THEIR WORK TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT MAKE MALAYSIA A SUCCESSFUL INDUSTRIAL NATION.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS PRESENTLY ENCOURAGING THE GROWTH OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES LIKE THE ALUMINIUM AND STEEL INDUSTRIES THAT WERE LATER EXPECTED TO GENERATE SPIN-OFF INDUSTRIES. --BERNAMA 2038/BY