

SHAH ALAM, MAY 9 (BERNAMA)—THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER INCENTIVES FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO DEVELOP HEAVY INDUSTRIES.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID +INCENTIVES ON INDIVIDUAL MERITS+ COULD BE CONSIDERED.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO PREPARED TO ASSIST THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO INITIATE SUCH INDUSTRIES, HE TOLD NEWSMEN DURING A VISIT TO THE UNITED MOTOR WORKS FACTORY HERE.

CALLING ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS IN HEAVY INDUSTRIES, HE SAID THAT AREA WAS LACKING IN MALAYSIA AND WAS +NOT OUR STRONG POINT+.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, SAID HE WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE EXISTING PROGRAMME FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND SAID IT SHOULD BE EXPEDITED. —BERNAMA MORE 1605/MD

NO44 (F)
MAHATHIR 2 SHAH ALAM

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID UNITED MOTOR WORKS MUST HAVE THE INITIATIVE AND WILLINGNESS TO FACE +TEETHING PROBLEMS+.

THE COMPANY HAD VENTURED INTO THIS INDUSTRY AND HAD BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE AN IMPRESSIVE GROWTH DESPITE INITIAL DIFFICULTIES, HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT DESPITE THE EXISTENCE OF MANY BACKYARD FOUNDRIES THERE WAS A NEED TO SET UP METAL AND MACHINE FACTORIES. INDI-INDUSTRIES.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID COMPANIES SHOULD NOT BE SATISFIED WITH IMPORTING AND DISTRIBUTING HEAVY INDUSTRY PRODUCTS BUT SHOULD MANUFACTURE AND ASSEMBLE THEM LOCALLY. —BERNAMA MORE 1608/MD

MAHATHIR 3 SHAH ALAM

THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO PUSHING HARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE INDUSTRIES WITH THE SETTING UP OF THE PROPOSED HEAVY INDUSTRIES CORPORATION.

LOCAL INVESTORS, WHO WERE NOW UNABLE TO INVEST IN THESE INDUSTRIES OWING TO THE LARGE CAPITAL OUTLAY AND LONG PAY-BACK PERIOD, WOULD BE ASSISTED BY THE CORPORATION ON A JOINT-VENTURE BASIS TO SET UP HEAVY INDUSTRIES.

THE CORPORATION WOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO GO INTO JOINT-VENTURE WITH FOREIGN FIRMS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID A PAPER ON THE CORPORATION WAS BEING PREPARED AND WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE CABINET SOON.

—BERNAMA MORE 1622/MD
MAHATHIR 4 SHAH ALAM

HE COMMENTED FAVOURABLY ON THE UNITED MOTOR WORKS COMPANY'S RECONDITIONED HEAVY MACHINES.

HE SAID THE RECONDITIONED MACHINES WERE NOT INFERIOR IN QUALITY TO NEW MACHINES AND COST MUCH LESS. BY SELLING THESE MACHINES SAVINGS COULD BE MADE ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE WHICH WOULD, OTHERWISE, HAVE TO BE USED TO BUY NEW MACHINES.

EARTH-MOVING AND TIMBER AND MINING EQUIPMENT COULD BE RECONDITIONED TO CUT DOWN ON COSTS.

DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE WISHED TO SEE MORE EFFORTS MADE BY OTHER COMPANIES IN THE RECONDITIONING OF HEAVY MACHINES.

HE SAID THE HEAVY INDUSTRIES SECTOR SHOULD DIVERSIFY TO PRODUCE COMPONENTS LOCALLY. —BERNAMA MORE 1626/MD

MAHATHIR 5 SHAH LALAM

UNITED MOTOR WORKS' MANAGING DIRECTOR DATUK ERIC CHIA, IN HIS BRIEFING TO DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, SAID THE COMPANY WAS FINALISING ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE FOREIGN MANUFACTURER TO MANUFACTURE AND ASSEMBLE CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT HERE.

THE FOREIGN MANUFACTURER WOULD PURCHASE THE EQUIPMENT FOR MALAYSIA ON ASSEMBLY AND MANUFACTURE HERE FOR SALE IN OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES.

HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ASSIST THE COMPANY BY CLASSIFYING THE EQUIPMENT AS AN ASEAN PRODUCT.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMPANY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ENCIK C. SELVARAJAH, LATER PRESENTED A 25,000. CHEQUE TO DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR'S WIFE, DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH, FOR THE MALAYSIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND. —BERNAMA 1630/MD