

MAHATHIR
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30 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 19 (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SUGGESTED TODAY THAT THE VARIOUS BUMIPUTRA RUBBER DEALERS ASSOCIATIONS IN THE COUNTRY FORM A NATIONAL CONFEDERATION TO ENCOURAGE BUMIPUTRA PARTICIPATION IN THE TRADE.

HE SAID SUCH A CONFEDERATION COULD ALSO ASSIST BUMIPUTRA RUBBER DEALERS IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF RUBBER TRADE SUCH AS IN MANAGEMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND GRADING.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MADE THE SUGGESTION AT THE OPENING OF THE NATIONAL SEMINAR FOR BUMIPUTRA RUBBER DEALERS ORGANISED BY THE MALAYSIAN RUBBER EXCHANGE AND LICENSING BOARD HERE.

ABOUT 500 BUMIPUTRA RUBBER DEALERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ARE ATTENDING THE FIVE DAY SEMINAR.

HE REMINDED THE PARTICIPANTS THAT WITH THE CORRECT GUIDANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT THEY COULD FORM A STRONG GROUP OF BUMIPUTRA BUSINESSMEN WITH SKILLS IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE RUBBER TRADE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE TRADE WAS IMPORTANT AS MALAYSIA WAS THE WORLD'S LEADING PRODUCER OF NATURAL RUBBER. —BERNAMA MORE 1407/MD

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HE SAID A LOT OF OPPORTUNITIES STILL EXISTED ESPECIALLY IN THE RUBBER-BASED MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

HE ADVISED THOSE INTERESTED IN VENTURING INTO THIS FIELD TO CONTACT MIDA OF THE MALAYSIAN RUBBER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD (MRDE).

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN VARIOUS EFFORTS TO HELP BUMIPUTRA RUBBER DEALERS, THESE EFFORTS WOULD NOT PRODUCE THE DESIRED RESULTS IF THE DEALERS THEMSELVES DID NOT WORK HARD.

+THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE PERTAINING TO THE 30 PER CENT BUMIPUTRA PARTICIPATION IN ALL STAGES OF THE RUBBER TRADE CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED IF ALL OF US ARE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH ONE ANOTHER TO ENSURE SUCCESS+. HE SAID. —BERNAMA MORE 1410/MD
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ONE THE COUNTRY'S NATURAL RUBBER PRODUCTION, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE MAKING EFFORTS TO INCREASE THE PRESENT PRODUCTION LEVEL, ESPECIALLY IN THE SMALL-HOLDERS SECTOR.

THIS WAS AIMED NOT ONLY AT STRENGTHENING THE COUNTRY'S POSITION AS THE LEADING PRODUCER OF THE COMMODITY BUT ALSO AT MEETING BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN DEMANDS.

ON THE COMMODITY MARKET, HE SAID EFFORTS WERE ALSO BEING MADE TO IMPROVE IT WITH THE SETTING UP OF THE KUALA LUMPUR COMMODITY MARKET IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR.

HE SAID IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT DESIRE TO SEE THAT THE NATION'S RUBBER AND TIN MARKETS BE COORDINATED AND INTEGRATED WITH THE KUALA LUMPUR COMMODITY MARKET.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MALAYSIAN RUBBER MARKETING AND LICENSING BOARD, ENCIK AHMAD SABKI JAHIDIN, HOPED THE SEMINAR WOULD FORMULATE PROGRAMMES OF ACTION TO INCREASE THE BUMIPUTRA PARTICIPATION IN THE VARIOUS LEVELS OF THE RUBBER TRADE. —BERNAMA 1500/MD