

MAHATHIR-SEMINAR 8.0 9.0 9.0 9.0 (P)

IPOH, MAY 24 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT IS REVIEWING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES IN THE COUNTRY TO REWILISE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

IN LINE WITH THIS, EMPHASIS WAS OF LATE BEING GIVEN TO THE PROMOTION OF THE SUPPORTING AND ANCILLARY INDUSTRIES TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY'S GROWING INDUSTRIAL SECTOR, HE ADDED WHEN OPENING A SEMINAR ON THE ROLE AND DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES HERE.

THE SEMINAR WAS ORGANISED BY THE IPOH INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WHO IS ALSO THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER DEFINED ANCILLARY AND SUPPORTING INDUSTRIES AS THOSE WHICH USUALLY TAKE THE FORM OF SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES CATERING FOR THE NEEDS OF SEVERAL FACTORIES WITHIN ONE OR MORE INDUSTRIAL SECTORS.

HE SAID THE ATTENTION GIVEN BY THE CHAMBER TO SUCH INDUSTRIES WAS VERY MUCH IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S AIMS AND ASPIRATIONS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SUGGESTED THAT INVESTIGATIONS BE MADE ON THE ENGINEERING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF EXISTING INDUSTRIES IN PERAK AS WELL AS OTHER STATES TO HELP IN THE SETTING UP OF THE FOUNDATION OF ANCILLARY AND SUPPORTING INDUSTRIES REQUIRED FOR FURTHER INDUSTRIAL GROWTH. — BERNAMA MORE 1448/1B

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+WE CANNOT SIT BACK AND WAIT COMPLACENTLY FOR THESE INDUSTRIES TO DEVELOP NOR CAN WE ALLOW EXISTING COMPANIES TO CONTINUE IMPORTING THEIR COMPONENTS AND ANCILLARY MATERIALS FROM FOREIGN SOURCES INDEFINITELY+, HE SAID.

+NUMEROUS JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND VAST AMOUNTS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE ARE AVAILABLE TO BE TAPPED BY MALAYSIA IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE ANCILLARY AND SUPPORTING INDUSTRIES+, HE ADDED.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID INDIA HAD DONE AN IMPRESSIVE JOB IN DEVELOPING SUCH INDUSTRIES AND SUGGESTED THAT THE CHAMBER TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAD RELAXED ITS RULES AND REGULATIONS REGARDING INVESTMENTS ABROAD BY INDIAN INVESTORS.

+WITHOUT BEING EXCLUSIVELY INDIAN, YOU SHOULD ORGANISE INVESTMENT MISSIONS TO INDIA OR ENCOURAGE INDIAN INDUSTRIALISTS IN THE RELEVANT FIELDS TO VISIT MALAYSIA AND SEE FOR THEMSELVES THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT EXIST+, HE SUGGESTED.

ON SOME ADVERSE PUBLICITY REGARDING INDIAN INVESTMENTS IN THE COUNTRY, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE FAILURES OF A FEW SHOULD NOT DETER THE COUNTRY FROM ENCOURAGING OTHERS.

THE HIGHLY DEVELOPED ANCILLARY AND SUPPORTING INDUSTRIES OF INDIA, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF HER OWN SMALL SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIAL PROGRAMMES, COULD BE AN EXAMPLE AND AN INSPIRATION TO MALAYSIAN BUSINESSMEN AS TO WHAT A SMALL INDUSTRIALIST COULD ACHIEVE, HE SAID. —BERNAMA MORE 1449/MD

THIRD PARA SHOULD READ: AND REGULATIONS REGARDING (RPT) REGULATIONS

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HE ALSO CITED THE MOST SPECULAR AND SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF A SMALL-SCALE MANUFACTURER — ENCIK MATSUSHITA — WHO STARTED HIS COMPANY AS A BACKYARD, SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRY BY MANUFACTURING SOCKETS FOR BULBS.

INITIALLY HE FAILED IN THIS ATTEMPT BUT WITH GRIT AND DETERMINATION, INITIATIVE AND HARD WORK, HE BUILT THAT SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRY INTO A MULTI-NATIONAL GIANT TODAY.

+IT IS ALSO FUELLING THE GROWTH OF OTHER SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES NOT ONLY IN JAPAN BUT ALSO IN OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING MALAYSIA,+ HE ADDED.

THIS SHOWED THAT SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES THOUGH INDIVIDUALLY MIGHT NOT MAKE A SPECTACULAR IMPRESSION ON THE ECONOMY, COULD COLLECTIVELY BE A VITAL FORCE FOR THE HEALTHY GROWTH OF THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR.

IN VIEW OF THIS, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE GIVING EMPHASIS FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN, HE SAID. — BERNAMA MORE 1515/AZ

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A CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL HAD ALSO BEEN SET UP TO INCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF SUCH INDUSTRIES.

THE COUNCIL UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ADVISER TO THE PRIME MINISTER, RAJA TAN SRI MOHAR BIN RAJA BADIOZAMAN, COMPRISED REPRESENTATIVES FROM MIDA, MARA, NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE, SIRIM, MIDF INDUSTRIAL CONSULTANTS, CREDIT GUARANTEE CORPORATION, BANK PEMBANGUNAN MALAYSIA, BANK PERTANIAN, THE ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT AND THE DEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION AND CO-ORDINATION UNIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT. — BERNAMA 1518/AZ