

MAHATHIR

109

30 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 5 (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD STRESSED HERE TODAY THAT MALAYSIA NEEDED INVESTMENT BUT NOT AT ANY PRICE.

+WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE HELD TO RANSOM MERELY BECAUSE WE WANT TO HAVE A GOOD INVESTMENT CLIMATE,+ THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID AT THE OPENING OF A COLLOQUIUM ON DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES FOR MALAYSIA.

HE SAID THAT THOSE WHO HOPED TO EXTRACT FROM THE GOVERNMENT UNACCEPTABLE CONCESSIONS IN THE INTERPRETATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY WERE MISTAKEN.

+WE NEED INVESTMENTS, WE NEED TO DEVELOP THIS COUNTRY, WE NEED ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, WE NEED A GOOD IMAGE BUT IF THE PRICE IS THE PERPETUATION OF THE OLD INEQUITABLE SOCIETY, THEN THE ANSWER IS NO,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY +IS HERE FOR GOOD+ AND THERE WAS NO WAY BY WHICH THE OLD LOP-SIDED EXPLOITATION ECONOMY WOULD BE BROUGHT BACK. — BERNAMA MORE 1420/SZ

NO15 (F)
MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER SPOKE OUT AGAINST THE DELIBERATE DISTORTIONS OF +THE MALAYSIAN PICTURE+ BY CERTAIN PEOPLE WHO WERE OUT TO WRECK THE STEADY PROSPERITY OF THE COUNTRY.

SOME OF THESE PEOPLE WERE FOREIGNERS WHO WERE ENVIOUS OF MALAYSIA'S SUCCESS BUT THERE WERE ALSO SOME MALAYSIANS WHO ENGAGED IN THE DISTORTIONS TO JUSTIFY THEIR +CHAUVINISTIC PROCLIVITIES.+

ONE SUCH MALAYSIAN, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID, HAD CLAIMED THAT 49 PER CENT OF THE MALAYSIAN INCOME TAX WAS PAID BY THE CHINESE AND ONLY FIVE PER CENT BY THE MALAYS AND ALL GOVERNMENT REVENUE WAS BEING SPENT ON THE MALAYS.

HE SAID THERE WAS NO RACIAL BIAS IN INCOME TAXATION, AND THE ADMISSION THAT THE CHINESE PAID 49 PER CENT OF THE INCOME TAX WAS PROOF THAT 49 PER CENT OF EARNED WEALTH IN MALAYSIA ACCRUED TO THE CHINESE AND ONLY FIVE PER CENT TO THE MALAYS.

QUOTING ANOTHER INCIDENT, HE SAID ANOTHER MALAYSIAN HAD SPREAD STORIES OVERSEAS THAT MALAYSIANS WERE BEING HANGED BECAUSE OF THEIR RACE.

+HE NEVER EXPLAINED THAT THE CRIME COMMITTED BY THESE CRIMINALS WERE ALSO AGAINST HIS OWN RACIAL GROUP AND THE LAW PROTECTS THAT RACIAL GROUP RATHER THAN THE OTHERS,+ HE SAID.

— BERNAMA MORE 1424/SZ

MAHATHIR '3' KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO DISPROVE ALL THE CHARGES OF FACIALISM DIRECTED AT IT BUT +THE GOVERNMENT IS CAUGHT IN A CLEFT.+

IT WAS ALSO BEING ATTACKED BY BUMIPUTRA EXTREMISTS WHO WERE EQUALLY PRONE TO DISTORT FACTS, HE ADDED.

+IF WE CITE FACTS AND FIGURES TO DEMONSTRATE HOW WELL THE NON-MALAYS ARE DOING IN THIS COUNTRY THAN WE WILL BE ATTACKED BY THE BUMIPUTRAS,+ HE SAID.

THE EFFECT OF ALL THESE DISTORTIONS, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID, WAS TO CREATE DESPONDENCY AT HOME AND ABROAD.

+THE CLIMATE OF INVESTMENT WHICH WE HAVE CAREFULLY NURTURED, ALTHOUGH STILL BRIGHT, HAS BEEN TARNISHED SLIGHTLY. MORE OF SUCH DISTORTIONS WILL CERTAINLY DAMAGE THAT CLIMATE,+ DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID.

HE SAID THERE WERE CERTAIN MATTERS WHICH WERE CONSIDERED SENSITIVE AND WARNED THAT TO +PLAY WITH IT, YOU WILL BE PLAYING WITH FIRE.+ — BERNAMA MORE 1427/SZ

NO17 (F)

MAHATHIR 4. KUALA LUMPUR

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID WOULD ENSURE STABILITY THROUGH ALL POSSIBLE MEANS, PLEASANT OR UNPLEASANT, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHAT FOREIGN JOURNALS WOULD SAY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN FULFILLING THE TARGETS OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

THIS WAS NO EASY TASK, HE SAID BUT OVER THE YEARS SOME MODUS VIVENDI HAD BEEN DEVELOPED, ENABLING THE GOVERNMENT TO SET TARGETS TO BE ACHIEVED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR. 110

THE RELATIONSHIP WAS NOT ALL THAT SATISFACTORY AND +IN FACT VERY OFTEN THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO CAJOLE, PERSUADE AND EVEN APPLY GENTLE PRESSURE IN ORDER TO NUDGE THE PRIVATE SECTOR TOWARDS THE TARGETS.+

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAD NOW TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO STUDY THE TRENDS AND NEEDS OF THE NATIONS AND TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS AS TO WHAT THE OBJECTIVES SHOULD BE AND HOW THEY COULD BE ACHIEVED.

HE SAID MALAYSIA'S PROGRESS WAS DUE TO HER PEOPLE AND NOT BECAUSE OF THE FOUNDATIONS LAID BY THE COLONIAL MASTERS, AS CLAIMED BY SOME PEOPLE. — BERNAMA MORE 1430/SZ

NO18 (F)
MAHATHIR 5 KUALA LUMPUR

+DESPITE BEING MULTI-RACIAL AND MULTI-RELIGIOUS, DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF OUTSIDERS TO FAN RACIAL ANTAGONISM, DESPITE GLARING DISPARITIES BETWEEN RACES, THE MAJORITY OF MALAYSIANS ARE MORE ATTRACTED TOWARDS BUILDING THIS NATION.

THE RESULT WAS RAPID GROWTH THAT EVEN MALAYSIANS' DETRACTORS HAD PERFORCE TO NOTICE AND GRUDINGLY ADMIT.

MALAYSIA, HE SAID WAS ALSO FORTUNATE IN ADOPTING WHAT SEEMED TO BE RIGHT MIXTURE OF WESTERN SYSTEMS AND EASTERN VALUES.

+PRAGMATISM ENABLES MALAYSIA TO ADOPT SYSTEMATIC PLANNING AS AN INSTRUMENT OF DEVELOPMENT BUT SHE RETAINS MUCH OF THE WORK ETHICS AND SOCIAL VALUES OF EASTERN PEOPLE.+

THE RESULT HAD BEEN A GROWTH RATE THAT ALTHOUGH WAS NOT SPECTACULAR, WAS STEADY — A PHENOMENA NOT OFTEN SEEN IN THE WORLD TODAY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THERE WAS SOMETHING IN MALAYSIA THAT ENABLED THE SUCCESS AND THIS NEEDED PRESERVING.

+I CANNOT PUT MY FINGER PRECISE ON IT BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IT IS THERE,+ HE SAID. — BERNAMA MORE 1434/SZ

MAHATHIR 6 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID WHILE OTHERS SAID THAT +WE ARE ABOUT TO EXPLODE, WE CAN AND DO SIT DOWN CLMPLY TO DISCUSS AND PLAN OUR FUTURE.+

+FOR AS LONG AS WE CAN SIT LIKE THIS TO TALK RATIONALLY, WE CAN BE SURE THIS COUNTRY WILL PROSPER.+

HE SAID A LOOK AT THE UPHEAVALS AND ECONOMIC SHAMBLES IN PRACTICALLY EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE, IT HAD TO BE ADMITTED THAT MALAYSIANS WERE WELL-OFF.

HE ADDED THAT IN MALAYSIA, THE BIGGEST SIGN OF SUCCESS WAS THE DISSATISFACTION OF ALL THE COMMUNITIES WITH THEIR LOT AND AT THIS MOMENT, EVERYONE WAS COMPLAINING.

ON THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS ONLY AS GOOD AS THE PEOPLE WHO IMPLEMENTED IT.

+WE HAVE THE MONEY, THE MATERIAL, THE PEOPLE AND THE STABILITY THAT ARE INGREDIENTS FOR ECONOMIC SUCCESS. I HOPE WE WILL ALL SEIZE THIS GOD-GIVEN OPPORTUNITY,+ HE SAID. — BERNAMA 1438/SZ