

MAHATHIR-AIROD

1981

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 22 (BERNAMA) - THE ROYAL MALAYSIAN AIRFORCE OVERHAUL DEPOT (AIROD) AT SUBANG NEAR HERE HAS GREAT POTENTIAL OF BECOMING THE NUCLEUS OF AN AERO-SPACE INDUSTRY, PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID TODAY.

THE DEPOT HAD GOOD FACILITIES AND COULD BECOME SUCH A CENTRE IF IT WAS FULLY UTILISED, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER VISITING AIROD.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO DEFENCE MINISTER, SAID THAT AT PRESENT AIROD HAD THE SAME CAPABILITIES AS AIRCRAFT DEPOTS IN SOUTH KOREA AND TAIWAN.

HE SAID THAT WITH THE SOPHISTICATED FACILITIES AT AIROD, MALAYSIA COULD VENTURE INTO SPECIALISATION IN AIRCRAFT SERVICING AND OVERHAULING.

AS MALAYSIA SPECIALISED, EXCHANGE OF EXPERTS AND TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW COULD BE WORKED OUT AMONG COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, HE ADDED. ---BERNAMA MORE 1652/HM

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD EARMARKED A 200-ACRE AREA FOR THE EXPANSION OF AIROD.

IN LINE WITH THE EXPANSION PROGRAMME OF THE ARMED FORCES, AIROD WOULD TRAIN MORE PERSONNEL, HE ADDED.

HE ALSO SAID THAT FACILITIES AT THE DEPOT COULD ALSO BE UTILISED BY OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IN TERMS OF INVESTMENT, AIROD HAD SAVED THE COUNTRY FOREIGN EXCHANGE AS THE AIRCRAFT WERE OVERHAULED AND SERVICED LOCALLY.

HE ALSO SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR DEDICATED, HARDWORKING AND DEDICATED PERSONNEL TO SERVE AIROD. ---BERNAMA MORE 1700/HM

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ON THE PRODUCTION OF AIRCRAFT SPARE PARTS, HE SAID THAT AT PRESENT IT WAS NOT VIABLE TO SET UP SUCH AN INDUSTRY IN THE COUNTRY.

HOWEVER, IN CONSIDERING SUCH A VENTURE MALAYSIA WOULD LOOK NOT ONLY INTO THE LOCAL NEEDS BUT FOR EXPORT PURPOSES AS WELL.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THE REPORT ON THE PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT FOR THE RMAF WAS BEING STUDIED AND DETAILS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED AS POSSIBLE. -- BERNAMA

1703/LK