

NO45 (F)
MAHATHIR-BUMIPUTERA

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 16 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY ALTHOUGH IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT 30 PER CENT BUMIPUTERA OWNERSHIP MAY HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE MALAYSIAN ECONOMY, THIS FIGURE WAS NOT STATIC.

HE SAID THAT AS THINGS WERE MOVING AND THE ECONOMY WAS EXPANDING, WHAT WAS 30 PER CENT CURRENTLY WOULD NO LONGER BE 30 PER CENT IN THE FUTURE.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS COMMENTING ON REPORTS SAYING THAT THE BUMIPUTERAS HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED THE 30 PER CENT TARGET UNDER THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY (NEP). --BERNAMA MORE 1512/MD

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+WE CANNOT SAY THAT WHEN WE ACHIEVE THE 30 PER CENT, THE NEP, THEREFORE, IS NO LONGER NECESSARY, + HE SAID.

FINANCE MINISTER TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH, HAD ALSO SAID RECENTLY THAT ALTHOUGH THE BUMIPUTERAS HAD CONTROL OVER SOME SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY, THEY HAD NOT ACHIEVED THE NEP TARGET IN GLOBAL TERMS.

AS MENTIONED IN THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN, VIEWED GLOBALLY, THE BUMIPUTERA COMMUNITY CONTROLLED ONLY 12.4 PER CENT OF THE ECONOMY.

ON HIS TALKS WITH SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER ENCIK LEE KUAN YEW TOMORROW, HE SAID THEY WOULD PROBABLY DISCUSS HOW BEST TO IMPROVE TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE.
--BERNAMA 1515/MD