

NO29 (F)
MAHATHIR -METAL
BM

SHAH ALAM, SEPT. 3⁸¹ (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT IS HOPEFUL THAT THE USE OF LOCAL RAW MATERIALS COULD BE STEPPED UP THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE METAL INDUSTRIES TECHNOLOGY CENTRE (MITEC), DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE CENTRE COULD ALSO HELP BOOST THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SKILLED WORKERS.

OPENING THE CENTRE HERE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT MITEC WOULD CONCENTRATE IN STEPPING UP THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE METAL INDUSTRIES TO BUMIPUTERAS, ESPECIALLY SMALL ENTREPRENEURS PRODUCING TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS.

HE SAID SURVEYS SHOWED THAT THE STANDARD OF TECHNOLOGY IN THIS FIELD WAS STILL LOW AND THE PRODUCTIVITY WAS SOMEWHAT LIMITED.

THE BUMIPUTRA PARTICIPATION IN THIS FIELD WAS CONFINED TO NON-SOPHISTICATED PRODUCTS. —BERNAMA MORE 1327/HM

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NO30: (F)
MAHATHIR-METAL 2 SHAH ALAM

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID BUMIPUTRA PARTICIPATION AND PROGRESS IN THESE NEW FIELDS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO ACHIEVE THE TARGETS OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

HE FELT THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MITEC WOULD HELP STRENGTHEN THE METAL-BASED INDUSTRIES AND ENABLE THEM TO PRODUCE QUALITY PRODUCTS AT COMPETITIVE PRICES.

THE CENTRE COULD ALSO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE SETTING UP OF MAJOR AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID STUDIES SHOWED THAT THE LOCAL METAL INDUSTRIES HAD NOT DEVELOPED THE CAPACITY TO PRODUCE MAJOR COMPONENTS REQUIRED BY OTHER INDUSTRIES.

FOR EXAMPLE THE VEHICLE ASSEMBLY PLANTS IN THE COUNTRY HAD TO IMPORT MOST OF THE COMPONENTS AS THEY COULD NOT GET THEM LOCALLY.
— BERNAMA MORE 1345/1B

MAHATHIR-METAL 3 SHAH ALAM

DATUK MAHATHIR SAID LOCAL INDUSTRIES SHOULD NOT DEPEND ON LOCAL MARKET ALONE BUT ALSO TRY AND PRODUCE QUALITY PRODUCTS FOR OVERSEAS MARKET.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, SIRIM AND OTHER AGENCIES SHOULD PREPARE EFFECTIVE PROGRAMMES TO HELP STEP UP THE STANDARD OF TECHNOLOGY IN LOCAL INDUSTRIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR WAS ONE OF THE ECONOMIC SECTORS WHICH HAD SHOWED THE HIGHEST GROWTH RATE WITH THE EXPANSION OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND RAPID INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, THE NATION NEEDED MORE SKILLED WORKERS IN THE VARIOUS FIELDS.

MITEC BEING A TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE TOWARDS THIS END, HE ADDED. — BERNAMA 1410/1B

NO39 (F)
MAHATHIR - METAL 4 SHAH ALAM (REOPENS EARLIER ITEM)

MEANWHILE, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTER TAN SRI ONG KEE HUI SAID MITEC WAS EXPECTED TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HELPING SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE METAL-WORKING INDUSTRIES OVERCOME THEIR TECHNICAL PROBLEMS.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE CENTRE WOULD BE ABLE TO ATTRACT ENTREPRENEURS AND OFFER THEM ASSISTANCE TO UPGRADE THEIR SKILLS AND FACILITIES.

TAN SRI ONG SAID THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR WAS POISED TO PLAY AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE COUNTRY'S DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY AND ITS FUTURE PROSPECTS WERE DEPENDENT ON THE CAPACITY OF THE INDUSTRIES TO PRODUCE QUALITY FINISHED ITEMS THROUGH THE USE OF EFFICIENT ECONOMIC PRODUCTION SYSTEMS.

IN VIEW OF THIS, GETTING AND ADOPTING NEW TECHNOLOGIES WOULD BE A CONSTANT REQUIREMENT, HE ADDED.

—BERNAMA 1445/AH