

NO28 (F)  
MAHATHIR - ACTION

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 17 (BERNAMA) — (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, MOKAMAD TODAY CALLED FOR +AN AGENDA OF ACTION+ AND +THE WILL TO ACT+ BY GOVERNMENTS AND THE WORLD COMMUNITY ON THE DEVELOPMENT AREAS AND PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED BY INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGENCIES.

HE SAID SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES AT THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS HAD BEEN HELD AND VARIOUS RESEARCHES HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT ON THE DEVELOPMENT AREAS AND PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED.

+WHAT IS IMPORTANT NOW IS AN AGENDA FOR ACTION AND THE WILL TO ACT NOT ONLY BY EACH NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO BY THE WORLD COMMUNITY,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WHEN HE INAUGURATED THE \$6.05 MILLION UN ASIAN AND PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (APDC) AT PERSIARAN DUTA HERE. THE APDC IS THE RESULT OF THE INTEGRATION OF FOUR REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH AND TRAINING. — BERNAMA MORE 1419/MK

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR NOTED THAT THE INITIAL WORK OF THE CENTRE WAS ON ENERGY, FOOD SECURITY, HUMAN RESOURCES AND WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT - TOPICS THAT WERE SIGNIFICANT AND CURRENT TO COUNTRIES IN THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION.

HE SAID: +WE CAN NO LONGER REGARD MANY OF OUR PROBLEMS TODAY AS SPECIFIC TO A PARTICULAR COUNTRY OR REGION.

+THE FUTURE PROSPERITY OF A COUNTRY IS VERY DEPENDENT ON THE OTHER COUNTRIES AS MUCH AS THE PROBLEM OR POTENTIAL DESTRUCTION OF A COUNTRY IS DEPENDENT ON THE OTHER COUNTRIES.+

HE THEN STRESSED THAT SUCH INTER-DEPENDENCE MUST BE VIEWED AS AN ASSET FOR THE GOOD AND PROSPERITY OF ALL AND NOT AS +AN OPPORTUNITY AND A FRAMEWORK FOR MANIPULATION AND OPPRESSION+ BY THE STRONGER NATIONS.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT A MAJOR GOAL OF THE APDC IS TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND HE SAID THE PARTICIPATION OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE APDC'S ACTIVITIES COULD BE AN IMPORTANT PROGRAMME FOR ACHIEVING THIS GOAL. — BERNAMA MORE 1426/MK

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HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT ADEQUATE CARE MUST BE EXERCISED BY BOTH THE CENTRE AND THE NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO ENSURE THAT THIS APPROACH WILL ENHANCE THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

+IT IS ONLY APPROPRIATE THAT I MENTION THIS SINCE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE ROLE OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS COULD BE REDUCED TO THAT OF MAINLY SUPPORTING THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTION INSTEAD OF BEING MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE. + HE SAID,

+I BELIEVE THAT FOR SUCH A MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE ROLE TO DEVELOP, THE CENTRE MUST ALSO GIVE ADEQUATE ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS AND DESIRE OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO UPGRADE THEIR CAPABILITIES. +

DAWK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE LACKING IN DEVELOPMENT-OR IENTED RESEARCH DUE TO VARIOUS REASONS SUCH AS THE LACK OF NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS, LACK OF EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENT LOCAL RESEARCHERS AND LACK OF RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT AND INCENTIVES, -- BERNAMA MORE 1430/MK

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+MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THEREFORE, BECOME THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION BY FOREIGN RESEARCHERS, MAINLY SCHOLARS WHO ARE RESEARCHING FOR THEIR MASTERS OR DOCTORAL DEGREES OR OTHERWISE HAVING INTENTIONS WHICH MAY BE QUESTIONABLE AS WHEN THEY TRY TO PROVE THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE INHERENTLY INCAPABLE OF DEVELOPMENT, + HE ADDED.

IT IS IN THIS LIGHT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, THAT NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS MUST TAKE GREATER INTEREST IN RESEARCH AND BUILD THEIR OWN RESEARCH CAPABILITY.

POSITIVE STEPS MUST ALSO BE TAKEN TO BRING RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS CLOSER TOGETHER SO THAT RESEARCH PROJECTS ARE BETTER COORDINATED, DUPLICATION AND WASTAGE AVOIDED, AND RESEARCH RESULTS BETTER UTILISED FOR POLICY FORMULATION AND DECISION MAKING.

REFERRING TO TRAINING, HE SAID WHILE THE OVERALL EDUCATION SYSTEM PROVIDED KNOWLEDGE, TRAINING INSTITUTIONS NORMALLY EMPHASIZED SKILLS.

+HOWEVER, GIVEN THE FACT THAT DEVELOPMENT IS NORMATIVE + IN OTHER WORDS, PREFERENCE FOR A BETTER STATE OF WELL-BEING, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT MANPOWER FOR DEVELOPMENT IS INJECTED WITH APPROPRIATE MORAL AND ETHICAL CONTENTS, + HE ADDED. --- BERNAMA MORE 1446/MK

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+KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS MUST, IN THE INTEREST OF SOUND DEVELOPMENT, BE UTILISED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF A PREFERRED MORAL AND ETHICAL FRAMEWORK WHICH AGAIN MUST NOT BE ALIEN TO THE PARTICULAR SOCIETY. +

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE WORK PLAN OF THE APDC ALSO DESCRIBED SOME OF THE MAIN CONCERNS OF MALAYSIA AND PRESUMABLY OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION.

WHILE THE SOLUTIONS TO THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS SHOULD BE FOUND LOCALLY, WITHIN EACH PARTICULAR COUNTRY, A SHARING OF EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE WITHIN A FRAMEWORK OF REGIONAL COOPERATION SUCH AS THE ASEAN COULD PROMOTE MORE CONSISTENT APPROACHES AND MORE EFFICIENT POLICIES. --- BERNAMA MORE 1454/MK

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EARLIER, THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ESCAP, ENCIK S.A.M.S KIBRIA, IN HIS ADDRESS, SAID THE PRIME MINISTER DID NOT INAUGURATE MERELY A FACILITY OR A BUILDING, BUT +A REGIONAL INTELLECTUAL CENTRE. +

THE CENTRE IS CONCEIVED OF AS AN INSTITUTION FOR ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, A THINK TANK, IF YOU WILL, WHICH IS CAPABLE OF PROVIDING INTELLECTUAL LEADERSHIP IN THE SEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT MODELS WHICH ARE APPROPRIATE TO THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION. + HE ADDED.

THE LONG TERM GOAL OF THE CENTRE, ENCIK KIBRIA ADDED, WOULD BE THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIES WHICH EMPHASIZED PATTERNS OF GROWTH THAT WOULD SERVE TO REDUCE THE UNACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF POVERTY IN THE REGION WHERE ABOUT 2,485 MILLION PEOPLE, OR MORE THAN HALF OF THE WORLD POPULATION, LIVED. --- BERNAMA 1458/MK