

NO GOVT AID FOR INDUSTRIAL INEFFICIENCY.

FROM FIZI AHMAD

LABUAN, FEB. 17 (BERNAMA-ES) -- MALAYSIAN INDUSTRIES CAN ONLY EXPECT GOVERNMENT PROTECTION FROM UNFAIR FOREIGN PRACTICES SUCH AS DUMPING BUT NOT FOR THEIR OWN INEFFICIENCY, ACTING PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, SAID HERE TODAY.

+ IF AN INDUSTRY PRODUCES HIGHER-PRICED PRODUCTS AS A RESULT OF ITS OWN INEFFICIENCY AND MISMANAGEMENT OR PLANNING, IT CANNOT EXPECT ANY GOVERNMENT HELP, + HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, SAID THIS AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF TWO SABAH COMPANIES - THE SEHAT SDN BHD, A DAIRY PRODUCT COMPANY, AND THE SABAH FLOUR AND FEEDMILL SDN BHD.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WELCOMED AND ENCOURAGED ANY NEW INDUSTRY EITHER BIG OR SMALL AS THIS WOULD HELP SPEED UP THE COUNTRY'S INDUSTRIALISATION TARGETS.

AS FAR AS THE INTENTION OF FOREIGN COMPANIES TO KILL LOCAL INDUSTRIES BY METHODS SUCH DUMPING AND OTHER UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES WERE CONCERNED, THE LOCAL COMPANIES WERE ASSURED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALWAYS PROTECT THEM, HE SAID.

CONSUMERS, ON THE OTHER HAND, MUST MAKE A LITTLE SACRIFICE AND NOT GRUMBLE IF THEY HAD TO PAY A BIT MORE FOR LOCAL PRODUCTS AS COMPARED TO IMPORTED ITEMS, HE ADDED.

ON THE SETTING UP OF THE SABAH FLOUR AND FEEDMILL SDN, BHD, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THIS SUCCESSFUL JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN THE STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS OF SABAH AND SARAWAK SIGNALLED A GREATER NATIONAL INTEGRATION THROUGH INTER-STATE COOPERATION.

ON THE SEHAT SDN BHD, WHICH PRODUCES DAIRY PRODUCTS UHT MILK FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION TO ALL PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN SABAH, HE SAID IT WAS A HIGHLY COMMENDABLE EFFORT.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID: + MAYBE THE COST FACTOR OF THIS OPERATION CANNOT BE VERIFIED, BUT THE EFFORT IS ACTUALLY AN INVESTMENT IN FUTURE MANPOWER FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NATION. +

THE SEHAT SDN BHD WAS SET UP IN JANUARY 1980 WITH A PAID UP CAPITAL OF \$5 MILLION ON THE FOUR ACRE SITE OF THE DEVELOPING INDUSTRIAL ESTATE HERE WHILE THE FLOUR AND FEEDMILL SDN BHD, COSTING \$36 MILLION, IS A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN THE SEDCS OF SABAH AND SARAWAK.

THE MILL IS CAPABLE OF PRODUCING 6,000 TONNES OF PRODUCTS PER MONTH. -- -- BERNAMA ES. 1520/YF

49