

BATU PAHAT, APRIL 14 ((BERNAMA)) — THE GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE PRIORITY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES TO REDUCE MALAYSIA'S DEPENDENCE ON OTHER COUNTRIES TO MEET HER BASIC INDUSTRIAL NEEDS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID MORE HEAVY INDUSTRIES SUCH AS STEEL MILLS, SHIPYARDS, RAILWAY WORKSHOPS AND MUNITIONS FACTORIES WOULD BE SET UP.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NEED A CORPS OF WORKERS DEDICATED TO HARD WORK TO SUPPLY THE LABOUR FORCE FOR THESE INDUSTRIES, HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE BUMIPUTRA ECONOMIC EXPO AND CONVENTION ORGANISED BY THE JOHORE STATE GOVERNMENT AND STATE UMNO AT KAMPUNG KENANGAN DATUK GAB HERE.

HE STRESSED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HEAVY INDUSTRIES SECTOR WOULD FREE MALAYSIA FROM THE PRESSURES OF DEPENDING ON FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR HER BASIC INDUSTRIAL NEEDS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO INTENSIFY BUMIPUTRA PARTICIPATION IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR.

—BERNAMA MORE 1659/AH

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MAHATHIR-EXPO 2 BATU PAHAT

TOWARDS THIS END, A PROGRAMME TO DEVELOP BUILDING SKILLS AMONG BUMIPUTRAS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA CAMPUS IN JOHORE BAHRU.

HE SAID THE PROJECT WOULD BE BUILT BY A 100-PERCENT BUMIPUTRA WORKFORCE WHO WOULD STAY AT CAMP ON THE SITE AND BE PROVIDED WITH EVERY TRAINING FACILITY.

HE POINTED OUT TO THE WORKERS THAT SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT DEPENDS ON THEM.

THE PROJECT WOULD ALSO BE REGARDED AS A TEST OF BUMIPUTRA ABILITY IN CONSTRUCTION TO LEND MEANING TO THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY OBJECTIVE OF STEPPING UP BUMIPUTRA INVOLVEMENT IN THE SECTOR.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALSO HIT OUT AT GROUPS WHO WERE ALWAYS CRITICISING THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

HE SAID THE POLICY WAS NOT FORMULATED TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF ANY ONE COMMUNITY OR INDIVIDUAL BUT WAS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WHOLE NATION. — BERNAMA MORE 1730/LK

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BUMIPUTRAS RECEIVED EMPHASIS UNDER THE POLICY BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN LEFT BEHIND IN ECONOMIC PROGRESS BY THE OTHER COMMUNITIES AND NOT BECAUSE THEY WERE A SPECIALLY-PRIVILEGED GROUP, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT AFTER INDEPENDENCE, BUMIPUTRAS WHO CONSTITUTED 51 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION OWNED ONLY ONE PERCENT OF THE NATION'S WEALTH.

ON THE EXPO, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR DESCRIBED IT AS A FITTING WAY OF APPRAISING THE SUCCESSES ACHIEVED AND FAILURES EXPERIENCED IN IMPLEMENTING THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

EARLIER, JOHORE MENTRI BESAR TAN SRI HAJI OTHMAN SAAT SAID THE EXPO WOULD EVALUATE BUMIPUTRA ACHIEVEMENTS AND BUMIPUTRA PROBLEMS IN THE STATE.

HE ALSO REGRETTED THE ATTITUDE OF SOME BUMIPUTRA ENTREPRENEURS WHO +ALI BABA+ THE LICENCES AND PERMITS GIVEN TO THEM BY THE GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID THIS PRACTICE DEFILED THE RIGHTS AND WOULD RUIN THE FUTURE OF THE MALAYS.

SEVEN WORKING PAPERS WILL BE TABLED IN THE CONVENTION INCLUDING ONE ON BUMIPUTRA PARTICIPATION IN THE AGRICULTURAL, FISHERIES AND LIVESTOCK REARING SECTORS. — BERNAMA 1733/LK