

1.09:

MAHATHIR-MANPOWER

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GENTING HIGHLANDS, MAY 11 (BERNAMA) --- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID TODAY THERE WAS A NEED TO UPGRADE THE SKILLS OF MALAYSIAN WORKER BECAUSE THE COUNTRY WAS MOVING INTO TECHNOLOGICAL ERA.

HE SAID THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF SKILLED MANPOWER WOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE EFFORT TO ATTRACT MORE INVESTMENTS FROM ABROAD.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE NATIONAL SEMINAR ON SKILLED MANPOWER NEEDS AND DEVELOPMENT IN MALAYSIA IN THE 1980S HERE.

HE SAID THAT MALAYSIA NEEDED TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO CHANGES IN ITS NATIONAL ECONOMY.

MANAGEMENTS, FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD REORIENTATE THEIR OUTLOOK BECAUSE THE SURPLUS OF LABOUR WAS GIVING WAY TO A SITUATION IN WHICH THERE WAS STIFF COMPETITION FOR AVAILABLE MANPOWER.

THE SUCCESS OF THE RECENTLY LANUCHED FORTH MALAYSIA PLAN WOULD ALSO DEPEND ON THE AVAILABILITY OF SKILLED AND DEDICATED WORKERS.

--- BERNAMA MORE 1958/ZCM

MAHATHIR-MANPOWER 2 GENTING HIGHLANDS

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS SHOULD EXPAND VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO MEET RISING MANPOWER NEEDS PARTICULARLY IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

TRAINEES SHOULD BE TAUGHT TO BE HONEST, HARDWORKING AND DEDICATED.

HE SAID THERE WAS A NEED TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO PROMOTE EXPORTS AND GREATER IMPORT SUBSTITUTION BECAUSE SUCH MOVES WOULD GENERATE MORE EMPLOYMENT.

THESE STEPS WOULD HOWEVER REQUIRE INNOVATIVE EFFORTS ON THE PART OF INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR PRODUCING THE SKILLED LABOUR THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED BY THE COUNTRY.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR NJGLVANPOWER, DATUK RICHARD HO, SAID THAT THE SKILL, EXPERIENCE AND LOYALTY OF WORKERS WOULD DETERMINE THE EXTENT TO WHICH NATIONAL OBJECTIVES COULD BE MET.

A PAPER PRESENTED BY THE MALAYSIAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MIDA) SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SET UP MORE TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, UPGRADE EXISTING TRAINING FACILITIES AND EXAMINE NEW WAYS OF TRAINING THE LABOUR FORCE TO OVERCOME THE CURRENT SHORTAGE OF SPECIFIC SKILLS.

MIDA SUGGESTED THAT MORE INCENTIVES BE EXTENDED TO COMPANIES WHICH UNDERTOOK TRAINING OF THEIR OWN LABOUR FORCE. - BERNAMA 2002/ZM