

ND 100  
MAHATHIR-NEP  
BM

32 (P)  
SHAH ALAM, JAN. 22 (BERNAMA) -- THE FACT THAT MANY COMPANIES IN MALAYSIA HAVE DEVELOPED INTO GIANT ENTERPRISES PROVES THAT THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY (NEP) DOES NOT RESTRICT INDUSTRIAL GROWTH, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THE ALLEGATION THAT THE N P INHIBITED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR WAS A FALLACY DELIBERATELY PROMOTED BY SOME QUARTERS.

OPENING THE TRAINING CENTRE OF THE UNITED MOTOR WORKS (UMW) HERE, HE CITED THE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF THE UMW AS A CASE IN POINT.

COMPLYING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEP HAD NOT INHIBITED THE COMPANY FROM DEVELOPING INTO ONE OF THE MOST ESTABLISHED CORPORATIONS IN THE COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR REMINDED THAT THERE WAS NO COUNTRY IN THE WORLD THAT DID NOT IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON INTERNAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES.

+SUCH CONTROL HAD NOT RESTRICTED THE DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH AND VIABILITY OF COMPANIES IN THESE COUNTRIES,+ HE ADDED.

+THE SAME IS ALSO TRUE FOR MALAYSIA - THE NEP HAS NEVER CURBED THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND COMPANIES IN THE COUNTRY.+ -- BERNAMA MORE 1246/41

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HE SAID THERE WAS NOTHING TO STOP ANY INDUSTRY IN THE COUNTRY FROM PROGRESSING IF IT POSSESSED THE CAPABILITY TO DO SO.

"THIS PROVES THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR CAN CONTINUE TO GROW DESPITE HAVING TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY."

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO STRESSED ON THE NEED FOR EVERY COMPANY IN THE COUNTRY TO PROVIDE TRAINING FACILITIES, NOT JUST FOR ITS OWN STAFF BUT ALSO FOR WORKERS FROM OTHER SECTORS.

IN THIS WAY, THESE COMPANIES WOULD FULFIL THE DOUBLE OBJECTIVE OF MEETING ITS OWN SKILLED MANPOWER REQUIREMENT AS WELL AS CREATING A POOL OF SKILLED LABOUR FORCE FOR NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY.

"THE GOVERNMENT WELCOMES ANY EFFORT TO PROVIDE SUCH TRAINING FACILITIES BECAUSE SUCH EFFORTS WILL BE A CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL ENDEAVOURS," HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO HOPED SUCH EFFORTS WOULD INTENSIFY STEPS TO CREATE A SKILLED BUMIPUTRA WORKFORCE. -- BERNAMA MORE 1323/LK

NO23: (F)  
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"IT IS THE ASPIRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SEE THE SITUATION OF IDENTIFICATION OF SKILL BY RACE DISSOLVED ONE DAY," HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT PROVISION OF TRAINING FACILITIES WOULD EXPEDITE THE GOAL OF CREATING A SKILLED LABOUR FORCE IN THE COUNTRY.

"WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT SKILLS CAN BE ACQUIRED THROUGH ON-THE-JOB EXPERIENCE, THIS IS A SLOW PROCESS COMPARED WITH RESULTS OF PROVISION OF TRAINING FACILITIES FOR WORKERS."

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE COUNTRY HAD TO MOVE INTO THE HEAVY INDUSTRIES PHASE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND COULD NOT AFFORD TO WAIT FOR THE SLOW BUILD-UP OF A SKILLED AND TRAINED WORKFORCE.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE OPENING WERE SELANGOR MENTRI BESAR DATUK HORMAT RAFEI, LABOUR AND MANPOWER MINISTER DATUK RICHARD HO AND WORKS AND UTILITIES MINISTER DATUK S. SAMY VELLU. -- BERNAMA MORE 1326/LK

NO24: (F)  
MAHATHIR-NEP 4 SHAH ALAM

EARLIER, UMW CHAIRMAN C. SELVARAJAH SAID THE COMPANY HAD SO FAR TRAINED 3,600 PEOPLE, INCLUDING FROM GOVERNMENT BODIES, ARMED FORCES AND CLIENT COMPANIES, AT A COST OF ABOUT \$5 MILLION.

HE SAID THAT LAST YEAR ALONE, THE COMPANY TRAINED 1,700 PEOPLE AT A COST OF \$1.6 MILLION. -- BERNAMA 1327/LK