

MAHATHIR-RISDA

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KUALA LUMPUR, FEB. 82 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY SMALLHOLDERS WILL ENJOY A BETTER LIVELIHOOD IF THEY FOLLOWED THE ADVICE OF EXPERTS AND TAKEN ON WORK THAT COULD SUPPLEMENT THEIR INCOME.

THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT DO A THOUSAND AND ONE THINGS TO HELP THEM BUT IF THEY THEMSELVES WERE NOT WILLING TO ADOPT GOOD PRACTICES, ALL THOSE EFFORTS WOULD BE IN VAIN, HE ADDED.

OPENING A SEMINAR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS OF THE RUBBER INDUSTRY SMALLHOLDERS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (RISDA) HERE, HE HOPED THAT EVERYONE, PARTICULARLY RISDA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANTS AND OFFICERS, WHO ARE THE AGENTS OF CHANGE AT THE GRASS-ROOT LEVEL, WOULD INCULCATE THE FORMULA OF SUCCESS AMONG THE PEOPLE TO FORM THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS FOR THE COUNTRY AND PEOPLE.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT IF RISDA AND THE SMALLHOLDERS' COMMUNITY WERE UNITED AND WORKED TOGETHER WITHIN CLEAR OBJECTIVES, THE COUNTRY AND PEOPLE WOULD SEE A GREAT CHANGE COMING ABOUT AMONG THE RURAL COMMUNITY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO HOPED THAT RISDA SMALLHOLDERS DEVELOPMENT CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WOULD SERVE AS CENTRES TO BRING ABOUT PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL CHANGE IN THE RURAL AREAS.
—BERNAMA MORE 1316/AN

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HE SAID HE WAS KEEN TO SEE THE ECONOMIC CAPABILITY OF THE RURAL AREAS IMPROVE THROUGH VARIOUS AGRO-BASED INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES WHICH COULD COMPETE IN THE MODERN MARKET IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT RISDA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANTS AND OFFICERS WERE LEADERS WHO NOT ONLY SHOULDERED THE TASK OF BRINGING ABOUT THE CHANGE HOPED FOR BUT ALSO TO CONTINUE THE EFFORTS TO CREATE AND PROMOTE LEADERSHIP IN DEVELOPING A DYNAMIC RURAL SECTOR.

ALL MALAYSIANS HAD VARIOUS OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE THEIR CONOMIC POSITION AND STANDARD OF LIVING, HE SAID.

SO LONG AS THEY WERE WILLING TO WORK HARD, FACE HARDSHIPS, MAKE POSITIVE USE OF WHAT GOD HAD GIVEN THEM, IT WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT FOR EACH AND EVERYONE TO IMPROVE THEIR FORTUNE, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT DEVELOPMENT IN MALAYSIA STRESSED THE TWO ASPECTS OF PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT. IT IS NOT CORRECT WHAT CERTAIN PEOPLE SAY THAT MALAYSIA IS INFLUENCED BY THE WESTERN MODEL OF DEVELOPMENT WHICH PLACES MORE IMPORTANCE ON MATERIAL ASPECTS.

—BERNAMA MORE 1321/AN

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HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT DENY THAT IT WOULD ADOPT DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS, WHETHER FROM THE WEST OR ELSEWHERE, IF THEY WERE SUITABLE TO THE DESIRE AND NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY AND DID NOT CONFLICT WITH ITS RELIGIOUS VALUES.

HE SAID MALAYSIA NEEDED A COMMUNITY AND NATION WHICH POSSESSED POSITIVE VALUES OF WAY OF LIFE WITH REGARD TO THE SPIRITUAL AND MATERIAL ASPECTS WHICH WOULD TAKE THE COUNTRY AND PEOPLE THROUGH AN ERA OF ACHIEVEMENT AND HIGH SUCCESS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO HAD NEVER FAILED TO CRITICISE WHATEVER IS DONE BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THEY POSSESSED AN ATTITUDE WHICH DID NOT BENEFIT ANYONE INCLUDING THEMSELVES.

THESE PEOPLE THOUGHT OF NOTHING ELSE EXCEPT TO FIND ANYTHING THEY COULD TO USE AS MATERIAL FOR THEIR FALSEHOODS, REGARDLESS THAT ISLAM CONSIDERED LYING AS WORST THAN MURDER, HE SAID.

HE DESCRIBED SUCH A GROUP AS THE DREGS OF SOCIETY WHO SPOILED THE FORTUNES OF THE COMMUNITY AND OBSTRUCTED PROGRESS BUT ON THE OTHER HAND THEY WERE NOT ASHAMED TO ENJOY THE FRUITS OF THE EFFORTS AND ACTIVITIES THEY CONDEMNED.

—BERNAMA MORE 1327/AN

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IT WAS PARTLY BECAUSE OF SUCH PEOPLE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS UNABLE TO DERIVE FULL BENEFITS FROM ALL ITS EFFORTS AND HE HOPED THE PEOPLE, INCLUDING THE SMALLHOLDERS, WOULD BE WARY OF THE GROUP AND STAY AWAY FROM THEM AND THEIR FALSEHOODS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR FORESAW THAT THE GROUP WOULD INTENSIFY ITS ACTIVITIES IN VIEW OF THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL ELECTIONS AS ELECTIONS ARE +FERTILE GROUND FOR SUCH MUSHROOMS TO SOW THEIR FALSEHOODS+.

CITING AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID THAT WHEN THE GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTED THE METRIC SYSTEM, THE GROUP CONDEMNED THE GOVERNMENT ON GROUNDS THAT IT WANTED TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE CHINESE TO CHEAT MUSLIMS.

HE ADDED THAT WHAT THE GROUP FORGOT IS THAT THE METRIC SYSTEM IS USED IN MOST OF THE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SAUDI ARABIA.

THE GROUP ALSO SPREAD LIES THAT THE GOVERNMENT ALLOWED VIETNAMESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO LAND IN MALAYSIA WITH THE AIM OF REDUCING THE PERCENTAGE OF MALAYS IN THE COUNTRY AND THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A UNIFORM TIME FOR THE WHOLE COUNTRY WAS TO CONFUSE MUSLIMS SO THAT THEY WOULD BE UNABLE TO PRAY.

—BERNAMA 1330/AN