

N140 (F)
MAHATHIR - JAPAN
BM

(P)

KOTA BHARU, FEB 22/82 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HIS PROPOSAL THAT MALAYSIANS EMULATE THE JAPANESE AND KOREANS DOES NOT IMPLY THAT MALAYSIANS SHOULD WEAR THE KIMONO, CARRY SAMURAI SWORDS, HAVE TEA CEREMONIES OR PRACTISE ZEN BUDDHISM.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HIS SUGGESTIONS WERE MERELY TO URGE MALAYSIANS FOLLOW THE WORK ATTITUDE AND METHODS OF THE PEOPLES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

WE HAVE OUR OWN RELIGIONS AND CUSTOMS AND IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR US TO FOLLOW THEIR CUSTOMS, HE SAID AFTER ATTENDING A BRIEFING ON DEVELOPMENT IN KELANTAN AT THE STATE OPERATIONS ROOM.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HELD KOREA AND JAPAN IN HIGH ESTEEM BECAUSE OF THE PROGRESS THEY HAD ACHIEVED THROUGH THE DILIGENCE, DISCIPLINE AND LOYALTY OF THE WORKERS.

AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID THE JAPANESE WORKERS DID NOT WANT TO RETURN EARLY FROM THE OFFICES OR FACTORIES FOR FEAR OF BEING LABELLED UNIMPORTANT WORKERS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1944/MK

MAHATHIR - JAPAN 2 KOTA BHARU

WIVES OF JAPANESE WORKERS ALSO DID NOT LIKE TO SEE THEIR HUSBANDS RETURNING EARLY BECAUSE THEY WERE AFRAID THAT THEIR NEIGHBOURS MIGHT THINK THEIR HUSBANDS WERE NOT IMPORTANT WORKERS, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT JAPANESE WORKERS WERE VERY DISCIPLINED AND ALWAYS OBEYED THEIR SUPERIORS THOUGH SOMETIMES THEIR SUPERIORS MIGHT NOT BE VERY COMPETENT.

IN ADDITION, THE WORKERS DID NOT OPPOSE INSTRUCTIONS AND DECISIONS HANDED DOWN EVEN THOUGH SOMETIMES THE DECISIONS WERE DIFFICULT TO IMPLEMENT, HE ADDED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY DO THEIR UTMOST TO ENSURE THAT THE DECISIONS WERE IMPLEMENTED WITH SUCCESS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IN THIS CONNECTION, SENIOR JAPANESE OFFICIALS WERE PREPARED TO LISTEN TO VIEWS FROM ALL SECTORS AND DID NOT IGNORE ANY GROUP OF WORKERS. -- BERNAMA MORE 2014/MK

N146 (F)
MAHATHIR - JAPAN 3 KOTA BHARU

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT KOREANS WERE NOT ONLY HARD WORKERS BUT WORKED EVEN HARDER THAN THE JAPANESE.

IN THAT COUNTRY THE WORKERS WOULD NOT RETURN HOME WHILE THEIR SUPERIORS WERE STILL IN THE OFFICE, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA 2014/MK