

MAHATHIR-DIALOGUE

82 (P)  
KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 5 (BERNAMA)-MALAYSIA MAY CONSIDER SENDING WORKERS TO JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA TO OBSERVE THEIR COUNTERPARTS AND WORK WITH THEM TO ACQUIRE FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE JOB. DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THIS COULD BE LOOKED INTO IF THE TRADE UNIONS COULD AGREE THAT ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF WORKERS BE SENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ANSWERING QUESTIONS RAISED DURING A DIALOGUE WITH TRADE UNION LEADERS, PRIVATE SECTOR MANAGERS AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AFTER HE DELIVERED HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO LAUNCH THE NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY CAMPAIGN.

HE AGREED WITH MTUC PRESIDENT ENCIK P.P. NARAYANAN'S SUGGESTION THAT MALAYSIA SHOULD SEND NOT ONLY MANAGEMENT STAFF FOR SUCH VISITS BUT ALSO WORKERS.

ON ENCIK NARAYANAN'S SUGGESTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT REVIEW THE MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE OF 55 YEARS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE AS IT WOULD NOT BE BENEFICIAL TO THE COUNTRY.

HE FELT THAT IF THE RETIRED WORKERS WERE HEALTHY AND CAPABLE PEOPLE THEY COULD EASILY FIND EMPLOYMENT AND IN THIS WAY CONTINUE TO BENEFIT THE COUNTRY. -- BERNAMA MORE 1830/HM

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TO ANOTHER QUESTION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PRODUCTIVITY CAMPAIGN BY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE EQUAL EMPHASIS TO THE PEOPLE TO COOPERATE IN THE CAMPAIGN.

+OUR EFFORTS TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY WILL SURELY BE SUCCESSFUL IF THE PEOPLE GIVE THEIR FULL COOPERATION,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CERTAINLY USE PRODUCTIVITY AS +AN IMPORTANT TOOL TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL UNITY.+

HE HOPED THAT EVERYONE WOULD APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANCE OF PRODUCTIVITY AND ITS IMPACT ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.--BERNAMA 1835/HM