

MAHATHIR-JAPANESE

BY REJAL ARBEE AND A. RAHMAN SULAIMAN.

82 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 15 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT HE HAD NOT COME ACROSS ANY JAPANESE WHO BEHAVED ARROGANTLY AND IMPATIENTLY AS A RESULT OF THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT'S LOOK EAST POLICY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD NOT ALSO COME ACROSS ANY JAPANESE MAKING UNREASONABLE DEMANDS IN THEIR DEALING WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN THE HOPE THAT THEY BE GIVEN PRIORITY OVER THE OTHERS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MADE THE OBSERVATIONS WHEN HE DISCUSSED THE GOVERNMENT'S LOOK POLICY DURING A SPECIAL INTERVIEW HERE.

HE SAID OF THE POLICY: +WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING WEST IN THE PAST. TO LOOK EAST IS TO LOOK IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION. WHATEVER YOU USED TO DO BEFORE WITH THE WEST, YOU SHOULD ALSO DO WITH THE EAST. THAT IS THE LOOK EAST POLICY.+

+IF YOU HAVE LEARNT ALL THE BAD WORK ETHICS OF THE WEST BEFORE, IT IS ABOUT TIME YOU LEARN SOME OF THE GOOD ETHICS OF THE EAST,+ HE STRESSED. --MORE 1607/MD

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THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ASKED WHETHER HE WAS AWARE OF SOME OF THE BAD EFFECTS OF THE POLICY SUCH AS CASES OF ARROGANT AND IMPATIENT JAPANESE.

+I'VE HEARD OF THIS COMPLAINT BUT I'M YET TO EXPERIENCE IT MYSELF.

+SINCE THE LOOK EAST POLICY WAS LAUNCHED, THERE HAS BEEN AN INFLUX OF JAPANESE INTEREST AND JAPANESE PERSONNEL HERE.

+THERE ARE MORE CONTACTS BETWEEN MALAYSIANS AND JAPANESE NOW AND IN THE PROCESS PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN EXPOSED TO THE JAPANESE BEFORE MAY FIND THE EXPERIENCE UNPLEASANT.

+THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE AS THE PEOPLE ARE SO USED TO DIFFERENT KIND PERSONALITIES BEFORE,+ HE EXPLAINED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE COULD SEE, THE JAPANESE WERE PRACTICALLY WILLING TO OFFER ALL THEIR FACILITIES TO MALAYSIANS.

+I HAVE ONLY TO MENTION THAT WE WANT THEM TO HELP AND PRACTICALLY EVERYONE OF THEM VOLUNTEERS TO GIVE PLACES OF TRAINING, TO GIVE SCHOLARSHIPS AND THE REST OF IT,+ HE SAID. --MORE 1612/MD

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ON A SUGGESTION THAT THE JAPANESE WERE WILLING TO OFFER ALL SORTS OF FACILITIES TO MALAYSIA LARGELY BECAUSE THEY WERE THINKING OF THEIR LONG-TERM PERSONAL BENEFITS RATHER THAN GENUINELY WANTING TO HELP, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THERE WAS NOTHING STRANGE IN THAT.

HE SAID THERE WAS NO COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WHICH WOULD HELP ANOTHER OUT OF LOVE.

+IT WOULD BE VERY NAIVE TO THINK THAT THE JAPANESE ARE DOING THIS BECAUSE THEY LOVE US, BECAUSE THEY WANT TO DEPRIVE THEMSELVES OF THEIR PROFITS.

+THEY ARE DOING THIS BECAUSE FOR THEIR OWN GOOD. BUT IF IN THE PROCESS, WE ALSO GET SOME BENEFITS, WE SHOULD BE VERY HAPPY,+ HE SAID. --BERNAMA 1615/MD