

MAHATHIR-WORK
BM

PETALING JAYA, AUG. 6 (BERNAMA)--DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY URGED WORKERS NOT TO BE +CLOCK WATCHERS+ TO THE EXTENT THAT THE PRACTICE ADVERSELY AFFECTS THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THE NATION WAS AT PRESENT FACING A PROBLEM WHEREBY WORKERS PAID TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO TEA BREAKS AND DID NOT WANT TO WORK MORE THAN NORMAL HOURS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

THIS HAD EITHER HAMPERED OR DELAYED WORK, HE SAID TO A GROUP OF 130 YOUTHS WHO HAD COMPLETED A INTENSIVE JAPANESE LANGUAGE COURSE AT THE ITM CAMPUS IN JALAN OTHMAN HERE.

HE SAID THE LOOK EAST POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS AIMED AT EMULATING THE SPIRIT OF THE WORKERS OF JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA WHO WERE DISCIPLINED, AND ACQUIRE THE SKILLS AND PROFESSIONALISM WHICH THEY HAD ATTAINED. --MORE 2104/OM

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HE SAID THE WESTERN ATTITUDE TOWARDS WORK SHOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE FOLLOWED ANYMORE AS IT ONLY ENCOURAGED THE WORKER TO BECOME LAZY.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID RENOVATION WORK ON THE MALAYSIAN STUDENTS DEPARTMENT BUILDING IN LONDON TOOK A PERIOD OF TWO AND A HALF YEARS. ON THE OTHER HAND, MALAYSIAN WORKERS WOULD HAVE TAKEN ONLY THREE MONTHS TO DO THE JOB, HE REMARKED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR POINTED OUT THAT THE REGULATION OVER THERE WAS THAT ONLY UNION MEMBERS COULD BE EMPLOYED.

HE SAID JAPAN WAS NOW MORE DEVELOPED THAN THE WESTERN COUNTRIES BECAUSE IT COPIED THE WESTERN TECHNOLOGY BUT STUCK TO ITS TRADITION AND CULTURE.

JAPANESE GOODS WERE ALSO MORE COMPETITIVE THAN THOSE PRODUCED BY THE WESTERN COUNTRIES, HE ADDED. --MORE 2107/OM

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ANOTHER AREA THAT SHOULD BE EMULATED WAS THE SPIRIT OF WORKING TOGETHER AS A UNIT SO MUCH SO THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHO THE BOSS WAS AND WHO THE EMPLOYEE, HE SAID.

THE ATTITUDE OF PLACING IMPORTANCE ON RANK OR POSITION SHOULD BE DISCARDED SO THAT WORKERS AT THE LOWER LEVELS WOULD HAVE MORE RESPECT FOR THEIR SUPERIORS, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID.

THIS WOULD ENHANCE HARMONY IN THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND HELP UPLIFT WORK PERFORMANCE.

SENIOR OFFICERS SHOULD NOT PAY TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO HAVING COMFORTABLE CUBICLES AND BE RELUCTANT TO MIX WITH THEIR SUBORDINATES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT FOR THE COUNTRY TO DEVELOP INTO A STRONG AND RESPECTED NATION, THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE WILLING TO WORK HARD WITH DEDICATION IN WHATEVER FIELD THEY WERE IN WITHOUT GIVING TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO PERSONAL INTERESTS. --MORE 2130/OM

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THE YOUTHS FORMER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL STUDENTS, WOULD COMPLETE THEIR SIX-MONTH COURSE NEXT WEEK. THEY WOULD LEAVE FOR JAPAN ON SEPT. 5 TO UNDERGO TRAINING ON ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING.

THE SECOND GROUP OF 280 YOUTHS WOULD BEGIN THEIR COURSE ON SEPT. 15. --BERNAMA 2132/OM