

MAHATHIR - HARVARD

(EMBARGO: FOR AUTOMATIC RELEASE AT 2230 HOURS TODAY, AUG. 7)

GENTING HIGHLANDS, AUG. 7 (BERNAMA) - DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAYS THERE IS A NEED FOR MALAYSIANS TO APPRECIATE QUALITY IN WHATEVER THEY DO.

QUALITY MUST NOT ONLY BE ACHIEVED AND MAINTAINED BUT MUST BE IMPROVED ALL THE TIME, THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED.

QUALITY, HE SAID, COULD NOT BE IGNORED IN THE QUEST FOR PRODUCTIVITY.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ADDRESSING A DINNER OF THE HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL ALUMNI CLUB OF MALAYSIA AT THE GENTING HIGHLANDS HOTEL HERE TONIGHT.

GOVERNMENT SERVANTS, HE SAID, SHOULD DELIVER NOT JUST SERVICE BUT QUALITY SERVICE. - MORE 1955/BW

N101 (F)

MAHATHIR - HARVARD 2 GENTING HIGHLANDS (EMBARGO)

+THIS KIND OF SERVICE SHOULD NOT BE CONFINED TO MAS CABIN CREWS ONLY BUT SHOULD BE STANDARD FOR ALL GOVERNMENT SERVICES,+ HE SAID.

+QUALITY CONTROL SHOULD BE THE CONCERN OF THE GOVERNMENT AS MUCH AS IT SHOULD BE THE CONCERN OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID: +WE SHOULD WORK TOWARDS THE DAY WHEN MALAYSIAN PRODUCTS WILL NEVER BE QUESTIONED WHERE QUALITY IS CONCERNED.

+OUR RAW MATERIALS HAVE ALREADY ESTABLISHED THIS REPUTATION.

+BUT WE CANNOT SAY THAT OUR MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS HAVE APPROACHED THIS STAGE YET.+ - MORE 1958/BW

MAHATHIR - HARVARD 3 GENTING HIGHLANDS (EMBARGO)

THE PRIME MINISTER LAMENTED THAT THE MALAYSIAN PRIVATE SECTOR WAS NOT AS AGGRESSIVE AND SUCCESSFUL AS IT WAS IN SOME OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THIS REGION.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR MANAGERS, HE SAID, WERE TOO FOND OF PASSING ON THE MORE COMPLEX BUSINESS MATTERS, FOR EXAMPLE DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING, TO THE MANAGERS IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

+THE FACT THAT MOST OF MALAYSIA'S PRODUCE ARE MARKETED BY THE FIRMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND THAT FREQUENTLY PRODUCTS FROM MALAYSIAN RAW MATERIALS WHEN MANUFACTURED LOCALLY ARE INCAPABLE OF COMPETING IN THE WORLD MARKETS WITH SIMILAR PRODUCTS USING THE SAME MALAYSIAN RAW MATERIALS BUT MANUFACTURED IN OTHER COUNTRIES BEAR TESTIMONY TO THE WEAKNESS AMONG THE MALAYSIAN MANAGERS IN PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND MARKETING.

+IT WOULD SEEM THAT WE CANNOT MANAGE WELL EVEN WHEN WE HAVE A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE,+ DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID.

THERE WAS A NEED, THEREFORE, FOR MORE MANAGERS TO BE TRAINED AND FOR THE SKILL OF EXISTING MANAGERS TO BE UPGRADED, HE ADDED.  
- MORE 20002/BW

N103 (F)

MAHATHIR - HARVARD 4 GENTING HIGHLANDS (EMBARGO)

THE PRIME MINISTER REMINDED THAT MANAGERS MUST FOCUS THEIR MIND ON PRODUCTIVITY CONSTANTLY.

+THEY MUST KNOW ALL THE WAYS AND MEANS OF INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY AND THEY MUST ALSO BE INNOVATIVE,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT HOW PRODUCTIVE MALAYSIANS WERE COULD BE GAUGED FROM THE FOLLOWING:

A WORKER IN A MALAYSIAN CAR ASSEMBLY PLANT PRODUCES 0.6 OF A CAR A YEAR. NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AVERAGE 2.5 CARS PER WORKER PER YEAR.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID: +PERHAPS THE WORKERS ARE TO BE BLAMED, BUT THE MANAGERS CERTAINLY CANNOT BE ABSOLVED FOR WHAT HAPPENS UNDER THEIR MANAGEMENT.+ - BERNAMA 2004/BW