

MAHATHIR-MATERIAL

82  
REMAU, AUG. 17 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR  
MOHAMAD HAS URGED THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR TO GIVE PRIORITY TO LOCAL  
BUILDING MATERIALS IN THEIR PROJECTS AS A STEP TO OVERCOME THE  
SHORTAGE OF BUILDING MATERIALS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SECTOR SHOULD ALSO WORK TOWARDS  
PRODUCING MORE MATERIALS FROM LOCAL RESOURCES IF THE TARGET OF  
NATIONAL HOUSING WAS TO BE ACHIEVED.

HE WAS OPENING THE FACTORY OF SYARIKAT CEMBOARD SDN BHD AT  
CEMBONG NEAR HERE TODAY. THE COMPANY IS A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN  
PESAKA ANTAH SDN. BHD AND ALEXANDER SHAND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR REITERATED THAT UNDER THE FOURTH  
MALAYSIA PLAN, THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR WERE REQUIRED TO  
BUILD 923,000 UNITS OF HOUSES OF ALL TYPES.

--MORE 1240/AN

MAHATHIR-MATERIAL 2 REMBAU

HE SAID THAT RUBBER TREES, LONG CONSIDERED USELESS, COULD BE  
A POTENTIAL LOCAL RESOURCE WHICH COULD BE USEFUL AND PROFITABLE  
INDUSTRIAL MATERIAL.

+BECAUSE MALAYSIA IS THE LARGEST PRODUCER OF RUBBER AND  
EACH YEAR THOUSANDS OF RUBBER TREES ARE FELLED FOR REPLANTING,  
THE POTENTIAL FOR RUBBER WOOD AS AN INDUSTRIAL MATERIAL SHOULD  
BE LOOKED INTO,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER FELT THAT THE USE OF RUBBER WOOD AS A  
SOURCE OF FIREWOOD WHICH HAD BEEN PRACTISED IN THE PAST WAS A  
WASTE THAT SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

THE NEW FACTORY OPENED TODAY PRODUCES CEMENT BOARD USING  
70 PER CENT RUBBER WOOD AND 30 PER CENT CEMENT.

WITH A CAPITAL OF \$34 MILLION, THIS IS THE FIRST FACTORY  
OF ITS KIND IN THE REGION. -- MORE 1300/SZ

NQ44 (F)

MAHATHIR-MATERIAL 3 REMBAU

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FACTORY  
SHOWED THAT THE COUNTRY HAD VAST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE USE OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES THAT COULD BE FOUND IN ABUNDANCE HERE.

HE SAID IN THIS DECADE, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO  
EFFORTS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PRIMARY RESOURCE BASED INDUSTRIES  
THAT COULD INCREASE THE VALUE OF THE COUNTRY'S PRODUCTS AND ALSO  
CONTRIBUTE TO THE COUNTRY FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS.

THE INDUSTRIES THAT WERE BASED ON LOCAL RESOURCES AND MATERIALS  
WERE BEING GIVEN PRIORITY IN THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGY.

HE SAID GREATER EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO ENABLE THE PRODUCTS  
FROM THIS FACTORY TO BE USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN THE  
COUNTRY.

HE SAID AS A MODERN INDUSTRY MANAGED BY EXPERTS LIKE THE FACTORY  
SHOULD NOT LIKE LOOK TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR SUPPORT. -- MORE

1335/SZ

NU46

MAHATHIR-MATERIAL 4 REMBAU

HE STRESSED THAT IT SHOULD USE PROGRESSIVE PRODUCTION METHODS, QUALITY CONTROL, RESEARCH AND MARKETING TECHNIQUES TO RAISE ITS PERFORMANCE.

SUCH AN ORIENTATION WAS VITAL FOR AN INDUSTRY THAT WAS ALSO PRODUCED FOR EXPORT.

EIGHTY PER CENT EQUITY OF THE FIRM IS OWNED BY FOREIGN COMPANIES AND THE REST BY LOCAL COMPANIES AND THE OBJECTIVE BY 1990 IS TO RAISE THE BUMIPUTRA EQUITY FROM 20 PER CENT TO 40 PER CENT AND NON BUMIPUTRA EQUITY TO 20 PER CENT.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID FELT THAT THE INCREASE IN THE BUMIPUTRA EQUITY PARTICIPATION IN JOINT VENTURE FIRMS SHOULD BE DONE BY EXPANDING THE CAPITAL RATHER THAN TAKING OVER SHARES OF FOREIGN PARTNERS.

HE SAID THAT BESIDES RAISING THE EQUITY PARTICIPATION, LOCAL MANAGEMENT AND OTHER STAFF SHOULD LEARN ABOUT THE FINANCIAL, PRODUCTION, MARKETING AND MANAGEMENT ASPECTS OF THE COMPANY.

--MORE 1353/AN

NU47 (F)

MAHATHIR-MATERIAL 5 REMBAU

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO STRESSED THE NEED FOR LOCAL FIRMS MANUFACTURING FOR EXPORT TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETS TO MAINTAIN THE QUALITY OF THEIR PRODUCTS.

+LOW QUALITY GOODS IS THE BEST WAY TO TARNISH THE IMAGE OF THE COUNTRY IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET AND WE SHOULD NOT EXPORT GOODS OF INFERIOR QUALITY JUST TO MAKE A FAST BUCK+, HE ADDED.

--BERNAMA 1355/AN