

MAHATHIR - WORK
BM

83 (B) KOTA BAHARU, AUG. 19 (BERNAMA) - DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY MALAYSIANS MUST BE WILLING TO WORK WITH DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT SO AS TO PRESERVE THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE COUNTRY AND THE RIGHTS THAT HAD FALLEN TO THEM.

MALAYSIANS WOULD FACE VARIOUS PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY THOSE RELATING TO THEIR RIGHTS AS NATIONALS, IF THEY WERE CHOOSEY ABOUT JOBS AND GAVE OTHERS THE CHANCE TO FILL THE GAP CREATED BY THEIR ATTITUDE.

OPENING THE KELANTAN UMNO CONVENTION AT KIJANG CAMP NEAR HERE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIANS, ESPECIALLY MALAYS, WOULD BECOME WEAK AND WOULD BE DOMINATED BY OTHER PEOPLE IF THEY PERSISTED WITH THE WRONG ATTITUDES.

HE URGED UMNO MEMBERS TO BRIEF THE PEOPLE ON THE PURPOSE OF THE +WORK HARD+ CAMPAIGN INITIATED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE NATIONAL CONTEXT. -- MORE 1908/BW

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HE SAID HISTORY HAD EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT OUTSIDERS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO THE COUNTRY HAD THE MALAYS OF THE PAST BEEN WILLING TO WORK IN ALL THE SECTORS EXISTING THEN.

UNFORTUNATELY, PRE-INDEPENDENCE MALAYS WERE NOT PREPARED TO WORK IN THE MINING AND PLANTATION SECTORS AND THE COLONIAL POWERS WERE FORCED TO IMPORT FOREIGN LABOUR INTO THE COUNTRY.

THE FOREIGN LABOUR FORCE WAS EVENTUALLY ABSORBED AND REGARDED AS CITIZENS OF THE COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THE DECISION TO GIVE SPECIFIC RIGHTS TO THIS GROUP AND THEIR DESCENDENTS WAS APT AND MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE.

"HOWEVER, IF MALAYS CONTINUE TO BE RELUCTANT TO BLOG IN CERTAIN SECTORS, THEY WILL FACE AN EVEN GRAVER PROBLEM IN FUTURE," HE WARNED.

THE PRIME MINISTER CHIDED MALAYSIAN, ESPECIALLY IN KELANTAN, FOR SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS SINGAPORE AND WEST ASIAN NATIONS.

THEY SHOULD HAVE STAYED BACK AND CONTRIBUTED TO NATION-BUILDING. -- MORE 1920/PA

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HE SAID SOME PEOPLE HAD THE MISCONCEPTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S +WORK HARD+ CAMPAIGN WOULD PRODUCE A NATION OF ROBOTS THAT COULD TAKE ORDERS BUT COULD NOT THINK.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE VIRTUE PROMOTED BY THE CAMPAIGN WOULD NOT ONLY IMPROVE EARNING AND STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE PEOPLE, BUT WOULD ALSO HELP SAFEGUARD THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE COUNTRY, NATION AND RELIGION.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO MALAYSIA PRESIDENT, URGED PARTY MEMBERS TO CONTINUE TO BE ACTIVE IN ALL FIELDS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PARTY AND COUNTRY.

HE ALSO WANTED THEM TO TAKE STOCK OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND FAILURES IN THE COUNTRY OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE.

HISTORY SHOULD BE ACCEPTED AS A GUIDE FOR THOSE WHO REPUDIATED HISTORY WOULD MEET THEIR DOWNFALL ONE DAY.

HE SAID THE COUNTRY ENJOYED MANY SUCCESSES IN THE PERIOD BUT ALSO MET WITH FAILURES FOR WHICH THE CAUSES SHOULD BE REMEMBERED AND MADE A LESSON FOR THE FUTURE.--MORE 2000/HM

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ON UMNO CONVENTIONS, HE SAID THEY WERE A HEALTHY CHANNEL FOR MEMBERS TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS AND OPINIONS FOR ATTENTION OF PARTY LEADERS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

+IT WILL BE UNWISE TO DISREGARD THE VIEWS OF THE GRASSROOTS FOR SUPPRESSED FEELINGS MAY EXPLODE ONE DAY AND THREATEN THE SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY.+

HOWEVER THIS DID NOT GIVE MEMBERS THE LICENCE TO GET EMOTIONALLY WORKED UP AT UMNO CONVENTIONS AND USE THE OCCASION AS A FORUM TO ATTACK THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID THE PRACTICE OF CONDEMNING THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT AT UMNO CONVENTIONS ONLY GAVE OPPOSITION PARTIES A WEAPON TO USE AGAINST UMNO AND THE GOVERNMENT.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WERE WIFE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH, FINANCE MINISTER AND KELANTAN UMNO LIAISON CHIEF TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH AND MENTRI BESAR DATUK HAJI MOHAMAD YAACOB.--BERNAMA 2002/HM