

MAHATHIR-SCIENCE

(D)  
KUALA LUMPUR, AUG. 24 (BERNAMA)--THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH SHOULD PLAY A MORE MEANINGFUL ROLE TO LESSEN THE PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES OF THE DEVELOPING MEMBER COUNTRIES ESPECIALLY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD BE MORE LIBERAL NOT ONLY IN IMPORTING PRODUCTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BUT ALSO IN THE TRANSFER OF SCIENTIFIC KNOW-HOW AND TECHNOLOGY.

ONLY WITH SUCH READINESS TO SHARE AND HELP CAN THERE BE A MORE MEANINGFUL ROLE TO LESSEN THE PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH, HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE 12TH BIENNIAL MEETING OF THE COMMONWEALTH SCIENCE COUNCIL HERE.

HE URGED THE COUNCIL TO ACT AS A CATALYST IN ENHANCING COLLABORATION AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH IN INCREASING THE CAPABILITIES OF INDIVIDUAL NATIONS TO USE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THEIR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT. --MORE 1150/MD

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR NOTED THAT THE WORLD COMMUNITY OF NATIONS WAS LIKE ANY HUMAN SOCIETY - THE POOR OUTNUMBERED THE RICH BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THEY HAD NOT ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE RICH SHOULD HELP THE POOR.

+PERHAPS IT IS BECAUSE POOR NATIONS ARE INCAPABLE OF THREATENING THE RICH, AS POOR WORKERS ARE CAPABLE THROUGH THEIR UNIONS.

+BUT WHATEVER THE REASON, CERTAINLY THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF NATIONS IS NOT WELL DEVELOPED,+ HE ADDED.

HE APPEALED TO THE SCIENTISTS ATTENDING THE MEETING TO HAVE A CONSCIENCE AND A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE WORLD AND WHERE APPROPRIATE SHOULD OVERRIDE THE NARROW INTERESTS OF ONE'S OWN NATION.

+THE POOR COUNTRIES NEED HELP, NOT HANDOUTS, BUT A HELPING HAND FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE IS ONE INSTRUMENT THAT CAN DO THIS.+

THE PRIME MINISTER MADE SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE TYPE OF HELP AND ASSISTANCE THAT DEVELOPING NATIONS LIKE MALAYSIA REQUIRED IN ORDER TO PROGRESS FURTHER. --MORE 1206/MD

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+I AM MENTIONING THIS SO THAT THOSE OF YOU REPRESENTING THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES MAY EXAMINE FURTHER HOW YOU CAN HELP US IN RETURN FOR THE KIND OF COOPERATION AND SUPPORT THAT WE CAN GIVE TO YOUR OWN EFFORTS IN ACHIEVING FURTHER ADVANCEMENT.+ HE SAID.

HE ASKED THE DEVELOPED COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES TO ASSIST THEM IN TRAINING THE LOCAL CORE OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PERSONNEL BUT THE COST OF TRAINING SHOULD NOT BE SO HIGH AS TO BE BEYOND THEIR REACH.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR BELIEVED THAT THE MORE LOCAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PERSONNEL WERE SENT FOR TRAINING, THE MORE WOULD DEVELOPED COUNTRIES BE ABLE TO EXTEND THE FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE IN THE APPLICATION OF NEW DISCOVERIES.

+AS A BONUS, OUR PERSONNEL WHO HAVE GOT USED TO YOUR TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT ARE GOING TO ACT AS THE BEST SALESMEN OF YOUR RESEARCH AND OTHER PRODUCTS WHEN THEY RETURN TO WORK IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES.+

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO URGED THAT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BE HELPED IN ATTAINING THE FINANCIAL CAPACITY TO BUY FROM THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES THE EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTS THEY NEED.

+THE CHANCES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SUBSEQUENTLY OUTSTRIPPING THE DEVELOPED IN THE UTILISATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL KNOW-HOW ARE SO SLIM THAT IT SHOULD BE TOTALLY DISCOUNTED.+

--MORE 1240/MD

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR REITERATED MALAYSIA'S BELIEF THAT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SHOULD BE USED NOT MERELY FOR THE MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION BUT ALSO FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACE AND HARMONY BOTH WITHIN THE COUNTRY AND IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN NATIONS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THE COUNTRY NEEDED THE COOPERATION OF THE ADVANCED COUNTRIES TO BOOST ECONOMIC GROWTH, IT ALSO PLACED EMPHASIS ON SELF-RELIANCE.

+WE ARE NOT ABOUT TO INVENT THE WHEEL AGAIN BUT THE APPLICATION OF DISCOVERIES AND INVENTIONS ORIGINATING ELSEWHERE IS A PART OF THE EXERCISE IN SELF-RELIANCE.+

AS SUCH, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR IDENTIFYING THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE THAT COULD BE UTILISED IN THE COUNTRY, AND TO MODIFY THAT KNOWLEDGE AND ITS APPLICATION IN ORDER TO FIT WITH ITS PECULIAR SITUATION AND NEEDS. --MORE 1255/MD

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HE ALSO CALLED ON DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO SHARE RELEVANT DISCOVERIES IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WHICH FORMED THE BASIC REQUIREMENT OF INDUSTRY.

IN ORDER THAT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO PRODUCTIVITY, THE SYSTEM AND METHODS MUST BE LEARNT THROUGH EXCHANGES OF EXPERTISE BETWEEN THE ADVANCED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS WELL AS AMONG THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THEMSELVES.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA ALONE COULD NOT AFFORD TO SPEND TOO MUCH TIME AND LIMITED RESOURCES ON THE BASIC TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH AS DID THE RICH AND ADVANCED NATIONS.

A TOTAL OF 40 DELEGATES FROM 28 COUNTRIES ARE TAKING PART IN THE ONE-WEEK MEETING.

THE COUNTRIES ARE AUSTRALIA, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BOTSWANA, BRITAIN, CANADA, CYPRUS, GHANA, GRENADA, GUYANA, INDIA, JAMAICA, KENYA, LESOTHO, MALAWI, MALTA, MAURITIUS, NEW ZEALAND, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, SINGAPORE, SRI LANKA, SWAZILAND, TANZANIA, UGANDA, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE AND MALAYSIA. -- BERNAMA 1325/SZ