

MAHATHIR-POPULATION

32 (P)  
KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 10 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, SAID TODAY THAT MALAYSIA'S POPULATION POLICY NEEDS TO BE REVIEWED IF THE NATION IS TO PROGRESS IN THE MANUFACTURING FIELD WHICH REQUIRES A LARGE DOMESTIC MARKET.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SUCH A REVIEW WAS MORE NECESSARY IN VIEW OF THE PROTECTIONIST POLICY PRACTISED BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHICH CONSTITUTE THE LARGEST CONSUMERS OF MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS IN THE WORLD.

IN HIS POLICY SPEECH AT THE 33RD UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE, HE SAID MALAYSIA COULD PRODUCE MORE MANUFACTURED GOODS ECONOMICALLY IF THE DOMESTIC MARKET WAS LARGE OR IF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ADOPTED AN OPEN-DOOR POLICY ON SUCH GOODS.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE LARGEST CONSUMERS FOR MANUFACTURED GOODS WERE IN THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND MOST OF THESE COUNTRIES PRACTISED PROTECTIONISM, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT A SMALL POPULATION NEED NOT NECESSARILY MEAN A HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING.

THE IMPORTANT THING WAS THE PURCHASING POWER OF THE PEOPLE AND THIS DEPENDED ON THEIRS AND PRODUCTIVITY.

--MORE 1126/AN

MAHATHIR-POPULATION 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA WHICH NOW HAD A POPULATION OF 14 MILLION COULD ACTUALLY HAVE UP TO 70 MILLION IF THE PEOPLE WERE PREPARED TO WORK HARD AND BE MORE PRODUCTIVE.

+WITH A LARGE DOMESTIC MARKET AND A HIGH PURCHASING POWER, OUR INDUSTRIES WILL NOT BE TOO DEPENDENT ON WORLD MARKETS.

+IT IS TRUE THAT WE WILL FACE PROBLEMS IF WE HAVE AN INDISCIPLINED SOCIETY BUT THIS CAN BE OVERCOME IF WE FOSTER DISCIPLINE AMONG THE WORKERS FROM NOW+, HE STRESSED.

HE SAID UMNO WOULD DIRECT ITS ATTENTION ON THIS MATTER AND CARRY OUT DETAILED STUDIES ON POPULATION.

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR.MAHATHIR SAID AFTER 25 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE, ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES HAD DEVELOPED INTO A FACTOR THAT COULD DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF THE NATION AND THE BUMIPUTRAS.

--MORE 1144/AN

MAHATHIR-POPULATION 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR.MAHATHIR SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE REALITY THAT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES COULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE RUN BY JUST ANYBODY.

+WE CANNOT DEPEND ON ADHOC MEASURES. WE NEED EXPERTISE NOT ONLY IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMICS BUT ALSO IN THE INTRICACIES OF THE POLITICS IN THE COUNTRY+.

DATUK SERI DR.MAHATHIR EXPLAINED THAT THE LEADERSHIP WAS AWARE THAT POLITICIANS APPOINTED TO ADMINISTER COMMERCIAL BODIES DID NOT BRING ABOUT ANY BENEFIT AND SOME HAD EVEN FAILED.

AS A RESULT OF THE FAILURE THEY COULD NOT ONLY ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY BUT WERE AN HINDERANCE TO THE GROWTH OF BUMIPUTERA FIRMS.

+IN VIEW OF THIS ADHOC MEANS OF MANAGEMENT COULD NO LONGER BE USED, INFACIT IT HAD ENDED+.

+WE NEED PROFESSIONAL MANAGERS WHO ARE AWARE OF THE POLICIES AND POLITICAL OBJECTIVES ESPECIALLY THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY+.

BE REMINDED POLITICIANS WHO WISHED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNMENT TO UNDERSTAND THAT NOT ALL OF THEM WERE NEEDED IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

--MORE 1200/AN

MAHATHIR-POPULATION 4 KUALA LUMPUR

SOME OF THEM WERE REQUIRED IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD EITHER AS CHAIRMEN OR MEMBERS OF BOARDS OR AS MANAGERS.

THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD WAS AS IMPORTANT AS THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, DATUK SERI DR.MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THE LEADERSHIP DID NOT WANT THEIR PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED ECONOMIC BODIES TO APPEAR AS A +JOB FOR THE BOYS+.

+DON'T THINK THAT BECAUSE OF LONG POLITICAL SERVICE WE SHOULD BE GIVEN POSTS. THERE IS NOTHING MORE DANGEROUS THAN GIVEN A POST TO A PERSON WHO IS NOT AN EXPERT IN THE JOB+, HE SAID.

AS SUCH, TO FULFILL THE POLITICAL NEED IN ECONOMY, HE SAID THAT POLITICIANS WHO WERE INTERESTED SHOULD MASTER THE INS AND OUTS OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

+AND WHEN THEY HAVE ACQUIRED THE ABILITY, THEY SHOULD CONSIDER THEIR ROLE IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD TO BE NO LESS IMPORTANT AS THE ROLE OF THEIR COLLEAGUES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

+POLITICS IS OUR TOOL AND NOT OUR OBJECTIVE. OUR OBJECTIVE IS A BETTER LIFE+, HE ADDED.

--BERNAMA 1202/AN