

MAHATHIR-UTM  
BM

82 (P)  
JOHOR BAHRU, NOV. 23 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER/DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE WANTS THE SUCCESSFUL BUILDING OF THE UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA CAMPUS NEAR HERE TO BE THE PROOF AND SYMBOL OF THE MALAY COMMUNITY'S CAPABILITY IN THE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION FIELD.

HE REMINDED THE BUMIPUTRA YOUTHS INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CAMPUS NOT TO FAIL IN THE PROJECT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT "IF PROJECT FAILED, THE HONOUR AND RESPECT OF THE MALAYS WOULD BE AFFECTED AND IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE CANNOT BLAME OTHERS IF THEY DO NOT RESPECT US."

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS SPEAKING TO SOME 300 BUMIPUTRA TRAINEES AT THE KOBENA-SAMBU VOCATIONAL TRAINING CAMP AT KM 24 PONTIAN ROAD HERE.

THE CAMP WAS SET UP BY KOBENA-SAMBU, A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN THE NATIONAL YOUTH COOPERATIVE (KOBENA) AND A SOUTH KOREAN FIRM WHICH SECURED THE MAIN CONTRACT TO BUILD THE UTM CAMPUS.

-- MORE 1308/LK

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THE PRIME MINISTER WAS CONFIDENT THAT TRAINED YOUTHS AND THOSE WHO HAD PASSED OUT FROM THE CAMP WOULD NOT DISAPPOINT THE NATION.

THEY WERE A DISCIPLINED GROUP IMBUED WITH THE WORK ETHICS OF THE KOREAN WHO STRESSED ON DILIGENCE.

HE SAID IF THERE WAS DISCIPLINE AND THE SPIRIT TO WORK HARD, EFFICIENCY AND STRENGTH WOULD FOLLOW NATURALLY.

HE SAID THE MALAYS WERE STILL BEHIND IN THE USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN CONSTRUCTION.

IF THEY WERE RELUCTANT TO INCREASE THEIR CAPABILITY IN THE USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY THEY WOULD BE LEFT EVEN FURTHER BEHIND,

HE ADDED. -- MORE 1333/MK

ZCZC NO37 (F)

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID SOME OF THE CRITICISMS AGAINST THE MALAYS' CAPABILITY IN THE CONSTRUCTION FIELD WERE VALID.

THE WORK OF THE MALAYS WERE NOT PERFECT BECAUSE THEY DID NOT HAVE THE SPIRIT AND INTEREST TO WORK ALTHOUGH, LIKE EVERY ONE ELSE, THEY WERE CAPABLE OF DOING A GOOD JOB.

THERE WERE SOME MALAYS WHO DID NOT TRUST THE CAPABILITY OF BUMIPUTRA CONTRACTORS FOR CARRYING OUT THEIR PROJECTS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CRITICISED SOME MALAYS WHO STILL ADOPTED THE ATTITUDE THAT THEY COULD ALWAYS ASK THE GOVERNMENT FOR HELP.

HE SAID THAT OTHER PEOPLE WOULD NOT SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT IN FRONT OF THESE MALAYS BUT THEY WOULD LAUGH AT THEM WHEN THEIR BACKS WERE TURNED. -- MORE 1344/MK

MINI

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THIS IS THE SECOND TIME THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS VISITED THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING CAMP.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT, DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI, AND MENTERI BESAR DATUK AJIB AHMAD.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS BRIEFED ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF AND PROBLEMS FACED BY THE CAMP BY KOBENA MANAGING DIRECTOR ENCIK WAHIDUDDIN ABDUL WAHAB.

HE THEN TOURED THE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE TRAINING CAMP AND WITNESSED THE TRAINING GIVEN BY VARIOUS KOREAN AND LOCAL INSTRUCTORS.

THE CAMP IS NOW TRAINING ITS SECOND GROUP OF 310 YOUTHS. THE FIRST BATCH OF 212 COMPLETED THEIR SIX-MONTH TRAINING IN SEPTEMBER AND THEY ARE NOW INVOLVED IN THE BUILDING OF THE UTM CAMPUS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR LATER VISITED THE SITE OF THE UTM CAMPUS NOT FAR FROM THE TRAINING CAMP. -- BERNAMA 1400/MK