

MAHATHIR  
BM

83 (P)  
TELUK INTAN, MARCH 27 (BERNAMA)-- THE PRIME MINISTER SAID TODAY THE CLOSE COOPERATION IN POLITICS AMONG THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO THE ECONOMIC SECTOR AS WELL.

(DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THAT IF POLITICAL COOPERATION COULD EXIST AMONG THE COMMUNITIES FOR SO LONG, THERE WAS NO REASON WHY ECONOMIC COOPERATION COULD NOT BE SIMILARLY DEVELOPED AMONG THEM AS WELL.

OPENING THE BUILDING OF THE HILIR PERAK, TELUK INTAN AND BAGAN DATOH UMNO DIVISIONS HERE, HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE PEOPLE MIGHT BE DIVIDED IN THEIR POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS, THEY WERE UNANIMOUS AND UNITED IN THEIR SUPPORT AND BACKING FOR CRUCIAL POLICIES SUCH AS THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

THE GOVERNMENT HE SAID, WANTED ACTIVE ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BUMIPUTERA AND THE NON-BUMIPUTERA COMMUNITIES BUT NOT THROUGH THE +ALI-BABA+ PRACTICE.

SUCH ACTIVE COOPERATION COULD HELP THE TWO GROUPS UPGRADE THEIR CAPABILITIES AND EXPERTISE TO ACHIEVE THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF BRINGING ABOUT A MALAYSIAN SOCIETY EQUAL IN ALL RESPECTS IRRESPECTIVE OF RACE. -- MORE 1415/OM

MAHATHIR 2 TELUK INTAN

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO MALAYSIA PRESIDENT, URGED UMNO LEADERS TO PROMOTE THIS THINKING AMONG MEMBERS.

THEY SHOULD CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE AND WORK HARD LIKE THE OTHER COMMUNITIES TO ACHIEVE GREATER ECONOMIC PROGRESS.

HE SAID THE QUESTION OF CAPITAL WAS NOT A PROBLEM: WHAT WAS REQUIRED WAS FOR THEM TO BE WILLING TO WORK HARD AT MAKING A SUCCESS OF THEIR UNDERTAKINGS.

HE SAID MARA WAS PREPARED TO GIVE THEM LOANS IF THEY COULD CONVINCE MARA THAT THE LOANS WOULD BE PUT TO GOOD USE AND REPAYED IN GOOD TIME.

THE PRIME MINISTER OBSERVED THAT DESPITE PROVISION OF CAPITAL AND BUSINESS PREMISES, PERFORMANCE OF BUMIPUTERAS IN TRADE AND INDUSTRY WAS ON THE WHOLE STILL AT A LOW LEVEL.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH INTERNATIONAL FIRMS SUCH AS GUTHRIE, SIME DARBY, BOUSTEAD AND THE MALAYSIAN MINING CORPORATION HAD FALLEN INTO BUMIPUTERA HANDS, THEY WERE UNDER THE PERBADANAN NASIONAL BERHAD (PNB) AND NOT PRIVATE BUMIPUTERA OWNERSHIP. -- MORE 1445/OM

MAHATHIR 3 TELUK INTAN

THE GOVERNMENT THEREFORE WANTED MORE BUSINESS INITIATIVES TO COME FROM INDIVIDUAL BUMIPUTERA BUSINESSMEN THEMSELVES.

HE ALSO URGED BUMIPUTERA BUSINESSMEN TO IMPROVE THEIR MANAGEMENT KNOW-HOW FOR THE EFFICIENT AND SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THEIR ENTERPRISES.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS GIVING SERIOUS ATTENTION TO THIS PROBLEM, HE SAID, ADDING THAT EVEN A CAPITAL OF \$1 BILLION WOULD LEAD TO NOTHING WITHOUT EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT.

HE CALLED ON UMNO ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES TO PUT IN MORE WORK IN HELPING THEIR CONSTITUENTS OVERCOME THEIR PROBLEMS.

HE SAID THERE WERE STILL SOME ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES WHO +SLEPT THROUGH+ THEIR TERMS AND CAME AWAKE ONLY WHEN THERE WERE ELECTIONS.

THIS ATTITUDE GAVE THE PARTY'S POLITICAL ENEMIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO INCITE DISAFFECTION AND DISENCHANTMENT AMONG THE PEOPLE TOWARDS THE GOVERNMENT AND UMNO. -- MORE 1450/OM

MAHATHIR 4 TELUK INTAN

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HOPED THE NEW BUILDING WOULD BE USED AS THE VENUE FOR DISCUSSING PROBLEMS OF THE PEOPLE AND NOT AS A SYMBOL REFLECTING THE GLORY OF THE PARTY.

HE REMINDED THAT WHEN THE PARTY WAS FORMED IN 1946, MEMBERS DID NOT HAVE A PROPER PLACE FOR THEIR MEETINGS AND SOMETIMES MET +UNDER PEOPLE'S HOUSES+.

HE REMINDED UMNO LEADERS THAT APART FROM PROMOTING THE CAUSE OF THE MALAYS, THEY WERE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFEGUARDING THE INTERESTS OF OTHER COMMUNITIES SHELTERING UNDER UMNO.

HE BELIEVED THAT NON-BUMIPUTERA COMMUNITIES WOULD HAVE CAUSE FOR COMPLAIN THEIR INTERESTS WERE PROTECTED AND GUARENTEED.

-- BERNAMA 1453/OM