

MAHATHIR-INDUSTRIES

BM

83 (P)
SUNGAI PETANI, MAY 1 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE SUCCESS ACHIEVED BY SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES IN THE COUNTRY.

+ I AM HAPPY THAT SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES IN THE COUNTRY HAVE NOW PROGRESSED, + THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD REPORTERS AFTER VISITING TWO FACTORIES AT THE BAKAR ARANG INDUSTRIAL SITE HERE TODAY.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY KEDAH STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS DATUK HAJI KHALID HAJI ABDULLAH AND RAJA ARIFFIN RAJA SULAIMAN AND STATE FINANCIAL OFFICER DATUK SYED MANSOR BARAKBAH DURING THE VISIT TO THE KEDAH GLAZED TILES FACTORY AND A FURNITURE FACTORY.

AT THE KEDAH GLAZED TILES FACTORY, THE PRIME MINISTER WAS TOLD THAT THE KEDAH STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION HELD 34 PER CENT OF SHARES OF THE FACTORY WHICH PRODUCES NON-ABSORBANT TILES.

THE OTHER SHAREHOLDERS ARE PERLIS PLANTATIONS (45 PER CENT), PERUSAHAAN PELANGI BERHAD (15 PER CENT) AND TWO JAPANESE COMPANIES (2.85 PER CENT EACH).

--MORE 1910/AN

ZCZC N122

MAHATHIR-INDUSTRIES 2 SUNGAI PETANI

THE FACTORY, WHICH HAS A PAID UP CAPITAL OF \$3.5 MILLION BEGAN OPERATIONS LAST MONTH. IT HAS A PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF 100,000 TILES PER MONTH.

ACCORDING TO ITS CHAIRMAN, RAJA ARIFFIN RAJA SULAIMAN, THE FACTORY COULD STEP UP PRODUCTION UP TO 150,000 TILES PER MONTH.

THE TILES ARE FOR LOCAL NEEDS.

RAJA ARIFFIN SAID THE PROPOSAL TO SET UP THE FACTORY WAS MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF AND HIS VISIT TODAY WAS TO GAUGE ITS PROGRESS SO FAR.

THE FACTORY EMPLOYES 50 LOCAL WORKERS WHO ARE TRAINED BY JAPANESE EXPERTS.

IT IS THE ONLY FACTORY IN THE COUNTRY WHICH MAKES TILES FROM CLAY. OTHERS MAKE THEM OUT OF CEMENT.

MEANWHILE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO THE FACTORY'S WORKERS WHO HAD SACRIFICED THEIR OFF-DAY TO BRIEF HIM ON ITS OPERATIONS.

--BERNAMA 1914/AN