

MAHATHIR-BUMIPUTERA

83
KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 10 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT IS NOT FAIR TO HIGHLIGHT THE JAPANESE AS BEING PREJUDICED AGAINST THE BUMIPUTERA BUSINESSMEN AND CONTRACTORS WHEN OTHERS TOO ARE GUILTY OF THE SAME DOINGS.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THE PROBLEM OF BUMIPUTERA BUSINESS COMMUNITY BEING GIVEN A RAW DEAL DID NOT REST WITH THE JAPANESE ONLY BUT ALSO OTHERS.

+OTHERS TOO HAVE NOT GIVEN THE BUMIPUTERAS A GOOD DEAL OR TAKEN THEM AS PARTNERS+, HE TOLD REPORTERS BEFORE LEAVING FOR AN OFFICIAL TOUR OF TURKEY, YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA TODAY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY +PEOPLE+ WERE SUDDENLY ZEROING IN ON THE JAPANESE WHEN ALL THIS TIME OTHERS TOO HAD NOT BEEN GIVING PART OF THEIR CONTRACTS TO BUMIPUTRAS.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A REPORTER WHO ASKED WHETHER THE PROBLEMS OF THE BUMIPUTRA CONTRACTORS FEATURED PROMINENTLY IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS JAPANESE COUNTERPART, ENCIK YASUHIRO NAKASONE, YESTERDAY.
-- MORE 1408/0D

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PRIOR TO ENCIK NAKASONE'S VISIT HERE, NEWSPAPERS HAD CARRIED REPORTS QUOTING BUMIPUTERA COMPANIES AS SAYING THAT THEY WERE NOT HAPPY WITH THE PREJUDICED ATTITUDE OF THE JAPANESE COMPANIES AND THIS THEY SAID WAS THE BIGGEST STUMBLING BLOCK FACED BY BUMIPUTERAS IN TRYING TO GET A FAIR SHARE OF THE JAPAN-MALAYSIA TRADE.

THERE WERE ALSO COMPLAINTS BY BUMIPUTERA CONTRACTORS THAT JAPANESE COMPANIES WHICH HAD WON MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS IN MALAYSIA WERE PRACTISING A NEW KIND OF ALI-BABA CONCEPT -- USING LOCAL BUMIPUTRA PARTNERS ONLY AS A FRONT TO PRE-QUALIFY FOR THEIR TENDER BIDS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT HE DISCUSSED THESE ISSUES WITH ENCIK NAKASONE BUT STRESSED: +THERE IS NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF THE BUMIPUTERA CONTRACTORS.+

HE DDCLINED TO COMMENT WHETHER JAPANESE HAD MADE ANY COMMITMENT TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS FACED BY BUMIPUTRA BUSINESSMEN. +WHEN WE ASK THE JAPANESE TO DO SOMETHING, THEY WILL DO IT,+ HE SAID +I DO NOT HAVE ANY PROBLEM WITH THEM.+ --MORE 1418/MD

ZCZC NO41 (F/S)

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HE ADDED: +WHEN WE TALK TO THEM (THE JAPANESE), THEY ARE FULLY RESPONSIVE, INFACCT MUCH MORE RESPONSIVE THAN THE OTHERS.+

AS SUCH HE WAS VERY SATISFIED WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE VISIT OF ENCIK NAKAASONE WHO LEFT THIS MORNING, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.
--BERNAMA 1420/MD