

MAHATHIR 'R'R'R

83 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 8 (BERNAMA) - THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO HAND OVER MOST OF ITS SERVICE AGENCIES TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR UNDER ITS PRIVATISATION PROGRAMME, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

THEY INCLUDE THOSE SERVICES BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE MALAYAN RAILWAYS, PORTS AUTHORITIES AND THE TELECOMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT, THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED.

ADDRESSING THE +ECONOMIC UNITY NIGHT+ ORGANISED BY THE JOINT COUNCIL OF THE MALAYSIAN MALAY-CHINESE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE HERE, HE HOPED THAT SUCH SERVICES WOULD OPERATE MORE EFFICIENTLY AND PROFITABLY UNDER PRIVATE SECTOR MANAGEMENT.

HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE PRIVATE SECTOR RUNNING THE RAILWAY SERVICES FROM BUTTERWORTH TO PASIR GUDANG.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING ALLOWING THE PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPED AND RUN PART OF THE KELANG AND PENANG PORTS. - MORE 2315/BW

ZCZC N202 (F/S)

MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR 'R'R'R'

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, WAS ONLY KEEN TO RETAIN ABOUT 10 TO 15 PER CENT SHARE IN SUCH SERVICE AGENCIES.

WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE RUNNING OF MALAYSIA PORTS, HE SAID MORE LOCAL TRADERS WOULD USE THE LOCAL PORTS FOR THEIR EXPORT AND IMPORT ACTIVITIES.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MALAYSIAN BUSINESSMEN IRRESPECTIVE OF RACIAL BACKGROUND TO GET TOGETHER AND FORM GIANT TRADING CORPORATION SO THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO COMPETE WITH ESTABLISHED FOREIGN COMPANIES.

HE SAID ONLY BY POOLING TOGETHER THEIR EFFORTS AND RESOURCES COULD THEY BE ABLE TO FORM A STRONG BUSINESS ORGANISATION THAT COULD MATCH THE ESTABLISHED JAPANESE AND EUROPEAN FIRMS.

THE TRADITIONAL PRACTICES OF KEEPING THE TRADE AND BUSINESSES WITHIN THE FAMILY SHOULD BE DONE AWAY WITH, HE ADDED.

HE SAID IT HAD BEEN PROVEN THAT BIG PUBLIC COMPANIES WERE DOING MUCH BETTER THAN SMALLER PRIVATE ONES BECAUSE OF THE BIGGER CAPITAL. - MORE 2327/MB

MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR 'R'R'R'

+WE HAVE TO THINK BIG AND UNDERTAKE OUR BUSINESS IN A BIG WAY,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO URGED MALAYSIAN BUSINESSMEN TO MAKE A GREATER EFFORTS IN EXPORTING MORE MALAYSIAN PRODUCTS ABROAD.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR DESCRIBED THE SETTING-UP OF THE JOINT COUNCIL AS THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW ERA OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY ASSISTANCE TO ENABLE THEM TO COOPERATE EFFECTIVELY IN UNDERTAKING JOINT BUSINESS AND TRADING VENTURES.

HE SAID UNDER THE MALAYSIAN INCORPORATED CONCEPT ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT, CIVIL SERVANTS HAD BEEN TOLD TO PROVIDE ALL THE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF PRIVATE SECTOR VENTURES.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO SEE THAT PRIVATE SECTOR MADE A LOT OF PROFIT SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ABLE TO COLLECT MORE REVENUES IN THE FORM OF TAXES, HE SAID. --MORE 2347/MD

ZCZC N204 (F/S)
MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR 'R'R'R

THE PRIME MINISTER SUGGESTED THAT THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY REDUCED RIVALRY AMONG THEMSELVES AND WORK TOGETHER IN +BIG FAMILY+ WITH THE GOVERNMENT UNDER THE INCORPORATED CONCEPT.

THIS WOULD ENABLE THE COUNTRY TO GENERATE A GREATER RATE OF GROWTH, HE ADDED.

HE HOPED THAT WITH THE SETTING UP OF THE JOINT COUNCIL, THERE WOULD BE MORE GENUINE PARTNERSHIP AND JOINT-VENTURES BETWEEN THE MALAY AND CHINESE BUSINESSMEN.

+WE ARE IN THE WOP OF INTER-DEPENDENT AND WE SHOULD FORMULATE A SYSTEM OF COOPERATION WHICH WOULD ALLOW A STEADY ECONOMIC GROWTH

IN THE COUNTRY,+ HE SAID.

EARLIER, THE PRESIDENT OF THE MALAYSIAN MALAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, DR. NAWAWI MAT AWIN, SAID THE OBJECTIVE OF SETTING-UP OF THE JOINT-COUNCIL WAS NOT ONLY TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING AND CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND MALAY BUSINESSMEN AND TO DEVELOP A MORE HEALTHIER ECONOMIC DEVELOPEMENT WAS ALSO DIRECTED AT ATTAINING NATIONAL UNITY.

THE COUNCIL WOULD PROMOTE JOINT VENTURES BETWEEN THE TWO CHAMBERS AND THEIR MEMBERS WITH THE ULTIMATE AIM OF ERADICATING THE IDENTIFICATION OF RACE ACCORDING TO ITS ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, HE SAID. --MORE 2359/MD

ZCZC N205 (F/S)
MAHATHIR 5 KUALA LUMPUR 'R'R'R

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATED CHINESE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, DATUK WEE BOON PING, ASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER THAT HIS ASSOCIATION WOULD COOPERATE FULLY WITH ITS MALAY COUNTERPART.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH MANY OF THEM HAD UNDERTAKEN JOINT-VENTURE PROJECTS, HE HOPED WITH THE SETTING UP OF THE JOIN-COUNCIL THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO FORMULATE PROJECTS OR PROGRAMME FOR GREATER INTEGRATION OF THE MALAY AND CHINESE COMMUNITIES.

--BERNAMA 0001/PA