

MAHATHIR - CONTRACTORS

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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 25/ (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED FOR A STRONG, EFFICIENT AND RELIABLE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TO HELP THE COUNTRY ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND MOULD A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR THE SOCIETY.

HE SAID IT WAS IMPERATIVE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TO ACHIEVE AND ENSURE A HIGHER LEVEL OF EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY TO ENABLE FASTER COMPLETION OF PROJECTS WHILE GIVING DUE REGARD TO SAFETY, THE AESTHETIC ASPECTS AND ECOLOGY - THE BASIC INGREDIENTS OF A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE.

+THE GOVERNMENT IS THE LARGEST SINGLE EMPLOYER OF BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS IN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS, AND THEREFORE, IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE WHY IT IS CONCERNED WITH THE EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY,+ HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE 20TH CONVENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ASIAN AND WEST PACIFIC CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATIONS (IFAWPCA) AT THE HILTON HOTEL HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE MAJOR BULK OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE VARIOUS SECTORS, WHETHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, INVOLVED THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. -- MORE 1245/MK

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+THE GOVERNMENT STANDS TO GAIN IF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IS EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT AND RELIABLE AND WHEN THE GOVERNMENT GAINS, THE PEOPLE TOO WILL GAIN.+

THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED THAT THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WAS A CRITICAL SECTOR FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH BUT GROWTH WAS NOT ALL THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED WITH.

+WE WANT GROWTH, BUT WE ALSO WANT A BETTER LIFE WHICH IS BEYOND MERE GROWTH.

+I BELIEVE THAT A STRONG, EFFICIENT AND RELIABLE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY CAN ASSIST THE COUNTRY, NOT ONLY TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC GROWTH EFFECTIVELY, BUT ALSO TO ASSIST IN MOULDING A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR HEALTHY GROWTH OF THE MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY, SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY,+ SAID DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR.

EMPHASIZING THAT BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS HAD AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE TO THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF ANY COUNTRY, HE SAID THEY HAD A PART IN PHYSICALLY TRANSLATING DEVELOPMENT PLANS INTO REALITY. -- MORE 1250/MK

ZCZC NO18 (F/S)  
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THE PRIME MINISTER CAUTIONED HOWEVER THAT DEVELOPMENT WAS NOT JUST PHYSICAL CONSTRUCTION AND CONCRETE CONTOURS -- DEVELOPMENT WAS A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE CHALLENGE TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WAS THEREFORE A CHALLENGE TO ITS RESPONSE AND REACTION TO THE NEEDS AND PROBLEMS OF SOCIETY.

HE ALSO REITERATED MALAYSIA'S POLICY OF GIVING HIGH PRIORITY TO TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND HOPED THAT THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, WHICH WAS A VERY IMPORTANT SECTOR, WOULD NOT ONLY BENEFIT FROM THIS POLICY BUT ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO ITS SUCCESS.

+TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY IS NOT AN EASY PROCESS: IT CANNOT BE EASILY ACHIEVED UNLESS THERE ARE GENUINE AND SINCERE EFFORTS, PARTICULARLY ON THE PART OF THE TRANSFEROR.

+THE TRANSFEROR TOO MUST ASSIST THE TRANSFEREE TO MAKE THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS TO ENABLE A SMOOTH AND EFFECTIVE TRANSFER TO TAKE PLACE.+

THE PRIME MINISTER NOTED THAT RIGIDITY AND SELFISHNESS OF TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENTS COULD STIFLE THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN THE LONG RUN, WHICH IN TURN WOULD AFFECT THE TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED ESTABLISHMENTS THEMSELVES. --  
MORE 1255/MK

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THE INCREASE IN SCOPE AND MAGNITUDE OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AND RAPID SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT HAD MADE THE PROCESS OF CONSTRUCTION MORE COMPLEX AND COMPLICATED..

HE BELIEVED PRUDENT AND EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES THROUGH MODERN MANAGEMENT PRACTICES COULD BRING BENEFITS AS WELL AS SUCCESS.

MORE THAN 300 LEADERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FROM COUNTRIES IN THE ASIAN AND WESTERN PACIFIC REGION, EUROPE AND NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA ARE ATTENDING THE FIVE-DAY CONVENTION ORGANIZED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE COUNTRY BY THE MASTER BUILDERS ASSOCIATION.

THE IFAWPCA IS A CONSTITUENT MEMBER OF THE CONFEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION (CICA) - A WORLD-WIDE BODY OF CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATIONS, WHICH HAS UNDER ITS WINGS ALSO THE INTERNATIONAL EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION FEDERATION (FIEC), THE INTER-AMERICAN FEDERATION OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY (FIIC) AND THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS' OF AMERICA (AGCA).

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HOPED THAT THE FEDERATION WAS NOT ONLY CONCERNED WITH EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY, BUT ALSO WITH FOSTERING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND CONTRACTORS WITH A VIEW TO FINDING MUTUAL BENEFICIAL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS.

-- BERNAMA 1326/LK

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