

MAHATHIR-INFLUENCE

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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 4 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY LASHED OUT AT MALAYSIANS SEEKING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN +CONDEMNING AND BLACKMAILING+ THE GOVERNMENT FOR PERSONAL MOTIVES. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF SUCH ACTIVITIES AND WOULD NEVER BE INFLUENCED BY THESE +IRRESPONSIBLE+ ACTS.

"THE GOVERNMENT CAN DETERMINE WHAT IS GOOD AND WHAT IS NECESSARY FOR THE PEOPLE HERE BASED ON THE POPULAR NEEDS EXPRESSED BY THE MAJORITY," HE ADDED WHEN OPENING AN MCA SEMINAR, +TOWARDS A NEW ECONOMIC ERA+, HERE.

HE REGRETTED THAT THESE PEOPLE RESORTED TO EXTERNAL SUPPORT WHEN IN FACT THEY COULD VOICE THEIR OPINIONS AND DEMANDS IN THE COUNTRY AND +THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER THEM IF NECESSARY.+

"IN A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY, THE GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO HEAR ANY GROUSE OR COMPLAINT FROM ANYBODY BUT IT CANNOT LET MINORITY WISHES GO AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE MAJORITY," HE SAID.

-- MORE 1231/LK

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT ONE OF THE MAIN TARGETS OF THE CRITICISM OF THESE +IRRESPONSIBLE PERSONS+ WAS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY (NEP).

HE SAID THEY DID NOT REALIZE OR JUST IGNORED THE FACT THAT THE NEP HAD BEEN WELL ACCEPTED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY WHO KNEW IT WAS FORMULATED FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL MALAYSIANS.

"HOWEVER, THERE MUST BE SOME MINOR PROBLEMS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEP WHICH STRESSES ON THE IMPORTANCE OF EQUITABILITY IN EVERY ASPECT AND THESE CAN BE OVERCOME," HE ADDED.

"THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE NEP IS A HINDRANCE IN ACHIEVING A STRONGER, UNITED AND PROSPEROUS MALAYSIA IN THE FUTURE."

THE PRIME MINISTER URGED THE CHINESE COMMUNITY WHICH HAD BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE BUSINESS WORLD TO HELP OTHER RACES HERE ACQUIRE BUSINESS SKILL AND KNOW-HOW.

-- MORE 1237/LK

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ONE OF THE WAYS TO HELP THEM WAS TO EMPLOY THEM IN SMALL SHOPS WHERE THEY COULD LEARN THE BUSINESS TRADE FROM THE BEGINNING.

'IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO HELP THEM THIS WAY RATHER THAN TO EMPLOY THEM IN BIG CORPORATIONS AND GIVE THEM HIGH WAGES WHEN THEY DO NOTHING AND LEARN NOTHING,' HE ADDED.

HE ALSO REMINDED THE BUSINESS SECTOR NOT TO EMPLOY BUMIPUTERAS FOR THE SAKE OF FULFILLING THE NEP REQUIREMENTS AS THIS WOULD NOT BENEFIT EITHER PARTY.

BUMIPUTERA WORKERS ON THE OTHER HAND, MUST NOT USE THEIR STATUS TO DEMAND FOR RIGHTS NOT WITHIN THEIR CAPABILITIES.

ON THE POVERTY ERADICATION ASPECT OF THE NEP DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN VARIOUS MEASURES TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY WHICH COULD LEAD TO A HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING.

-- MORE 1254/LK

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THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID VARIOUS POLICIES AND CONCEPTS HAD BEEN INTRODUCED FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL PEOPLE AND YET SOME OF THE CONCEPTS HAVE BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD.

CITING THE LOOK-EAST POLICY AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID SOME ACADEMICIANS STRONGLY OBJECTED TO THE POLICY WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING THAT ITS BASIC AIM WAS TO EMPHASIZE ON POSITIVE WORK ETHICS.

THEY EVEN WENT FURTHER BY PROVIDING VARIOUS THEORIES ON THE POLICY AND ITS CONSEQUENCES AND CAME TO A CONCLUSION THAT WILL DISCOURAGE THE NEED FOR THE POLICY, HE ADDED.

THE ONE-DAY SEMINAR ORGANIZED BY THE FEDERAL TERRITORY MCA WAS ATTENDED BY ABOUT 2,000 PARTICIPANTS INCLUDING DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER DATUK DR. LING LIONG SIK, DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DATUK LEE KIM SAI AND FEDERAL TERRITORY MCA CHAIRMAN ENCIK TAN KOON SWAN.

-- BERNAMA 1325/MB