

PARLIAMENT - BINTULU

BM

83 P
KUALA LUMPUR, OCT. 11 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT IS CARRYING OUT SPECIAL SHORT-TERM PROGRAMMES TO TRAIN THE PEOPLE OF SARAWAK TO MEET THE NEEDS FOR SKILLED LABOUR IN THE BINTULU INDUSTRIAL AREA; THE DEWAN RAKYAT WAS TOLD TODAY.

UP TO THE END OF LAST YEAR, 2,824 PEOPLE HAD BEEN TRAINED IN VARIOUS FIELDS, INCLUDING MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL AND CONSTRUCTION SKILLS IN SARAWAK AND PENINSULAR MALAYSIA, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM ENCIK MUTANG TAGAL (BN-BUKIT MAS), HE SAID THAT 591 OR 99 PER CENT OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE IN THE WORK FORCE WERE FROM SARAWAK. THEY WERE AMONG THE 597 PEOPLE EMPLOYED BY 11 FOREIGN CONTRACTORS AT BINTULU UP TO JAN. 31. SIX OTHERS WERE FROM THE PENINSULA.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FOREIGN WORKERS EMPLOYED BY THE CONTRACTORS WERE 419 OR 42.3 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL WORKFORCE OF 1,016.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE 48 MALAYSIANS EMPLOYED IN TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL LEVEL ACCOUNTED FOR 12 PER CENT OF THAT GROUP. -- MORE 1705/MB

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ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL INDUSTRIES IN THE KINDURONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT SINCE THE ESTATE WAS 10 KM FROM BINTULU, MANY SUPPORTING INDUSTRIES COULD BE CREATED FOR MAJOR PROJECTS SUCH AS THE LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG), UREA AND AMMONIA BESIDES FOUNDRIES, METAL AND SUPPORTING ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES.

SO FAR THE SARAWAK GOVERNMENT HAD APPROVED SEVERAL TYPES OF INDUSTRIES INCLUDING PLASTICS, SOFT DRINKS, TYRE RETREADING AND ENGINEERING WORKS, HE SAID.

THE BENEFITS FROM THE SUPPORTING INDUSTRIES WERE JOB OPPORTUNITIES, INCREASE IN THE INCOME OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA.

THE DEVELOPMENT WOULD ATTRACT MORE INVESTMENTS INTO THE AREA, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA 1720/MB