

MAHATHIR-WORK
BM

BY IDZAN ISMAIL

LAWAS (SARAWAK), OCT. 27 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD URGED THE PEOPLE TODAY TO WORK HARD TO ENSURE THAT THE WEALTH OF THE COUNTRY WILL BENEFIT THEM AND NOT PASS INTO THE HANDS OF FOREIGNERS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WISHED TO SEE MALAYSIANS DEVELOPING THE COUNTRY THROUGH THEIR OWN EFFORTS, DEDICATION, CAPABILITY AND CAPITAL.

+WE MUST PROVE THAT WE CAN DEVELOP OUR COUNTRY OURSELVES WITHOUT DEPENDING ON OTHERS AND I AM CONFIDENT WE CAN DO THIS IF WE ACQUIRE EFFICIENCY IN ALL OUR ENDEAVOURS.+

SPEAKING AT A MEETING WITH LAWAS RESIDENTS AT THE COMMUNITY HALL HERE, HE STRESSED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS OBJECTIVE TO AVERT RECURRENCE OF THE EXPERIENCE OF THE COUNTRY'S COLONIAL PAST WHEN ITS WEALTH FLOWED OUT INTO BRITISH COFFERS.

+IF WE DO NOT CHANGE OUR ATTITUDE AND WORK HARD, THE POSSIBILITY OF THE COUNTRY'S RICHES FALLING INTO FOREIGN HANDS WILL BECOME A REALITY,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD DISCARD THE THINKING SOWN DURING THE COLONIAL ERA THAT ONLY THE BRITISH OR OTHER FOREIGNERS WERE CAPABLE OF GOVERNING THE COUNTRY.

-- MORE 1940/AZ

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HE SAID THIS NOTION WAS FALSE BECAUSE MALAYSIANS WERE AS CAPABLE OR EVEN BETTER IN MANAGING THE COUNTRY IF THEY WERE PREPARED TO STRUGGLE AND TOIL AND PUT ALL THEIR LEARNING TO GOOD USE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT DESPITE A SITUATION OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC RECESSION, THE PEOPLE WERE NOT SUFFERING AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WAS STILL PROCEEDING.

THE COUNTRY HAD PERFORMED BETTER THAN OTHER COUNTRIES IN GENERATING EMPLOYMENT FOR ITS PEOPLE WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE OPPORTUNITIES IF THEY WERE WILLING TO WORK HARD.

+WE ALWAYS HEAR OF OUR PEOPLE BEING RELUCTANT TO WORK IN HIGH BUILDINGS OR IN THE HOT SUN, NECESSITATING IMPORT OF FOREIGN LABOUR WHO GAIN FROM THE RELUCTANCE OF LOCALS TO UNDERTAKE ARDUOUS JOBS,+ HE SAID.

+I FEAR THAT IF THIS ATTITUDE PERSISTS, THERE MAY COME A TIME WHEN ALL WORK IN THE COUNTRY IS CARRIED OUT BY FOREIGNERS AND WE WILL BE AT THEIR MERCY SIMPLY BECAUSE WE ARE NOT CAPABLE OF DOING THE WORK OURSELVES.+ -- MORE 2015/MB

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THE PRIME MINISTER REMINDED THE PEOPLE THAT PROSPERITY COULD NOT BE ACQUIRED THROUGH APPEALS TO ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES. ONLY KNOW-HOW AND COMPETENCY COULD BRING PROSPERITY.

HE ADVISED THE YOUTH TO RESPOND TO THE GOVERNMENT'S CALL TO TAKE UP HEAVY WORK NECESSARY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THE PRESENCE OF MANY JAPANESE, SOUTH KOREAN, BRITISH AND OTHER FOREIGN WORKERS IN MALAYSIA WAS NOT BECAUSE THE LOCAL POPULATION LACKED THE ABILITY AND INGENUITY BUT BECAUSE IT SHUNNED HARD JOBS.

+WE MUST ALSO BE WILLING TO TAKE ORDERS WHEN WORKING BECAUSE DISCIPLINE AND DILIGENCE CAN HELP US EARN A HIGHER INCOME AND ENJOY A BETTER LIFE,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA