

MAHATHIR - SUBSIDY

83 (8)
PETALING JAYA, NOV. 1 (BERNAMA) - (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT CALLED ON THE MANUFACTURERS TO STEP UP THEIR PRODUCTIVITY AND FORGET ABOUT SUBSIDY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WITH INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY, THE COUNTRY'S PRODUCTS WOULD BECOME MORE COMPETITIVE IN THE LOCAL AS WELL AS OVERSEAS MARKETS.

THIS WOULD REDUCE THE BURDEN OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE AND AT THE SAME INCREASE THE INFLOW OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE, HE ADDED IN HIS SPEECH AT THE LAUNCHING OF NATIONAL LEVEL PRODUCTIVITY MONTH AT HOTEL DAYANG HERE.

THE SPEECH WAS READ BY TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TENGKU AHMAD RITHAUDDEEN.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS NORMAL FOR ANY GOVERNMENT TO HELP ITS INDUSTRIES TO MAKE THEM MORE COMPETITIVE. BUT SUCH AID WAS LIMITED. -- MORE 2055/PA
ZCZC N177

MAHATHIR-SUBSIDY 2 PETALING JAYA

IN MALAYSIA, THE PROTECTION WAS SOUGHT NOT FOR MAKING THE INDUSTRIES COMPETITIVE IN THE EXPORT MARKET BUT RATHER FOR THE LOCAL PEOPLE TO BUY LOCALLY-MADE PRODUCTS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA'S PRIMARY COMMODITIES WERE ABLE TO COMPETE IN THE OVERSEAS MARKET DESPITE HAVING TO PAY CESS AND EXPORT DUTIES BECAUSE THE PRODUCTIVITY IN THOSE FIELDS WAS HIGH.

IF THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO GIVE PROTECTION TO THE RUBBER, OIL PALM AND TIN SECTORS IT WOULD NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO HELP OTHER INDUSTRIES.

+IF THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO PROVIDE SUBSIDY TO ALL INDUSTRIES, WE WOULD NOT HAVE ENOUGH FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATION, + HE STRESSED. MORE ->

U
LUI
cu
ude
mo

MAHATHIR-SUBSIDY 3 PETALING JAYA

HE SAID ALTHOUGH IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT WHICH PROVIDED THE SUBSIDY, THE BURDEN WAS ON THE PEOPLE AS THEY HAD TO PAY HIGHER PRICES FOR THE GOODS.

AS SUCH, HE SAID, THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SHOULD NOT THINK TOO MUCH ABOUT SUBSIDY BUT RATHER SHOULD WORK TOWARDS INCREASING THEIR PRODUCTIVITY TO MAKE THEM MORE COMPETITIVE.

HE SAID PRIORITY WAS BEING GIVEN TO PRODUCTIVITY AS IT WAS THE KEY TO ALL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

HIGH PRODUCTIVITY WOULD NOT ONLY BE ABLE TO INCREASE INCOMES AND IMPROVE STANDARDS OF LIVING BUT ALSO NECESSARY TO HELP OVERCOME INFLATION AND OTHER ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE BELIEF THAT THE COST OF LIVING PROBLEM COULD BE OVERCOME BY DEMANDS FOR PAY RISE AND ALLOWANCES WAS A MYTH.

A RISE IN INCOME WITHOUT A RISE IN PRODUCTIVITY WOULD ONLY INCREASE THE INFLATION RATE AND RESULT IN WAGE PRICE SPIRAL WHICH WOULD NOT BENEFIT ANYONE.

--MORE 2126/PA

MAHATHIR-SUBSIDY 4 PETALING JAYA

IN VIEW OF THIS, HE SAID, IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERYONE TO WORK TOWARDS INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY.

HE HOPED THAT THE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TONIGHT WOULD LEAD THE NATION TOWARDS THE OBJECTIVE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO WANTED THE PEOPLE TO CULTIVATE THE HABIT OF WORKING HARD IN WHATEVER THEIR VENTURES.

HE SAID A WORKER WHO WORKED HARD WAS NOT ONLY RESPECTED BY HIS EMPLOYERS AND TRADE UNION BUT ALSO THE SOCIETY.

HOWEVER, HE REGRETTED THAT MANY PEOPLE WERE STILL NOT PREPARED TO WORK IN CERTAIN FIELDS, SO MUCH SO THAT THE COUNTRY HAD TO ENGAGE FOREIGNERS TO WORK IN THESE FIELDS.

HE SAID SUCH AN ATTITUDE SHOULD BE CORRECTED IF THE PEOPLE DID NOT WANT TO BE DOMINATED BY FOREIGNERS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

--BERNAMA 2129/PA