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 KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 10 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT THE CHANGES BEING INTRODUCED IN MALAYSIA ARE TO ENSURE MORE RAPID DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT JEOPARDISING THE WELL-BEING OF THE MULTI-RACIAL POPULATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA COULD NOT AFFORD TO GO THROUGH THE KIND OF SLOW EVOLUTION THAT CHARACTERISED EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT.

MALAYSIA'S DEVELOPMENT MUST BE RAPID, INDEED IN CERTAIN ASPECTS MORE SO THAN JAPAN'S, HE TOLD THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ORGANISED BY KEIO UNIVERSITY IN TOKYO. THE TEXT OF HIS SPEECH WAS RELEASED HERE.

HE SAID THE CHANGES HAD BEEN CAREFULLY PLANNED AND TIMED BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO ENSURE THE WELL-BEING OF ALL AND PREVENT CONFRONTATION AND RACIAL DISTURBANCES.

THE INTRODUCTION OF CHANGES IN MALAYSIA +IS NOT A MATTER OF ISSUING AN +EDICT,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT IT MUST BE DONE CAUTIOUSLY AND WITH CLARIFICATION OF POLICIES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION. --MORE MAHATHIR-CHANGES 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THE LOOK EAST POLICY AND THE MALAYSIA INCORPORATED AND PRIVATISATION CONCEPTS COULD NOT BE INTRODUCED EARLIER.

THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN ALIST ENTIRELY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE DEPRIVED INDIGENEOUS PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY WOULD ONLY HAVE INCREASED THE DISPARITY AMONG THE RACES WHICH WAS A FEATURE OF MALAYSIAN SOCIETY IN THE PAST, HE ADDED.

EVEN NOW, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, THE POLICY AND CONCEPTS MUST BE PRUDENTLY IMPLEMENTED.

+AS THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC CONFIGURATION IN MALAYSIA IS NOT YET COMPLETED, THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO BE VERY VIGILANT THAT THE MALAYSIA INCORPORATED CONCEPT AND PRIVATISATION DO NOT STIR UP RACIAL TENSION,+ HE ADDED.

THIS MUST BE UNDERSTOOD BY ALL, INCLUDING FOREIGNERS, HE SAID. +THEN AND ONLY THEN CAN A DEGREE OF SUCCESS BE ACHIEVED.+ -- MORE MAHATHIR-CHANGES 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE FOREIGNERS MUST APPRECIATE THAT THEY WERE DEALING WITH A +SENSITIVE+ MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY +AND IF THEY ARE REQUIRED TO CONFORM TO CERTAIN NON-ECONOMIC REQUIREMENTS IN THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN MALAYSIA, IT IS REALLY FOR THEIR OWN GOOD.+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT MALAYSIA WANTED TO LEARN FROM JAPAN BUT IT HAD TO BE SELECTIVE CONSIDERING THE SOCIO-POLITICAL AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

HE SAID THAT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COULD NOT BE THE SOLE DETERMINANT. RACIAL HARMONY AND POLITICAL STABILITY WERE MORE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS.

THE CAUSES OF ECONOMIC DISPARITY AMONG THE RACES AND THE INABILITY OF MALAYSIA SO FAR TO BE A DEVELOPED NATION MUST BE STUDIED AND ACTION MUST BE TAKEN, WHERE NECESSARY, TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER REGRETTED WHAT HE SAW AS THE WHOLESAL ADOPTION BY SOME DEVELOPING NATIONS OF CERTAIN SYSTEMS OF THE ADVANCED COUNTRIES. -- MORE 1734/ZCM MAHATHIR-CHANGES 4 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THE ADOPTION OF THESE SYSTEMS, INCLUDING THOSE RELATING TO TRADE UNIONS, OFTEN PLACED THESE COUNTRIES IN A DISADVANTAGEOUS POSITION.

HE URGED THE GOVERNMENTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO TRY THEIR BEST TO INFLUENCE THE SELECTION OF SYSTEMS AND VALUES OF THE MASSES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THE JAPANESE WORK ETHICS WERE NOT A PHENOMENON BUT A CULTIVATED VALUE SYSTEM.

+IF THE WORK ETHICS WERE ACQUIRED AND DEVELOPED ARTIFICIALLY, IT FOLLOWS THAT MALAYSIANS TOO CAN SHAPE THEIR OWN WORK ETHICS,+ HE ADDED.

HE ALSO SPOKE OF OTHER ASPECTS OF JAPAN'S ECONOMIC MIRACLE, INCLUDING ITS CORPORATE PHILOSOPHY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS MANUFACTURING SECTOR. -- BERNAMA 180721