

MAHATHIR-WORKERS

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KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 19 (BERNAMA) -- THE REVENUE BEING COLLECTED FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR CAN ONLY MEET OPERATING COSTS AND LOANS HAVE TO BE SECURED FOR DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO EXPLAINED AT LENGTH THE GOVERNMENT'S OPTION FOR PRIVATISATION WHILE OPENING THE CUEPACS SEMINAR HERE, SAID THAT HIGHER LOANS WOULD RESULT IN HIGHER OPERATING COSTS AS THE INTEREST WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE COSTS.

HE TOLD PARTICIPANTS OF THE TWO-DAY CUEPACS SEMINAR ON PRIVATISATION AND BARGAINING RIGHTS THAT THE PERCENTAGE OF WORKERS IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE IN THE COUNTRY WAS HIGHER THAN OTHER COUNTRIES.

APART FROM THAT, GOVERNMENT SERVICES LIKE THE RAIL, PORT, POSTAL, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TELEVISION, RADIO AND HOSPITALS MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, BROUGHT LOSSES AND NOT THE EXPECTED GAINS.

+FACED WITH THE PROBLEM OF ESCALATING OPERATING COSTS AND UNPARALLELLED REVENUE, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO FIND A WAY OUT+.

--MORE 1713/PA

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT ONE WAY OUT WOULD BE TO STOP DEVELOPMENT BUT ITS EFFECT ON THE ECONOMIC GROWTH WOULD BE MUCH WORSE.

+WE CAN REDUCE THE NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS BY RETRENCHMENT, BUT THIS WILL ALSO CAUSE PROBLEMS.

+WE CAN REDUCE SALARY, BUT THIS WILL NOT BE POPULAR,+ HE ADDED.

+FINALLY, WE CAN FIND A WAY OUT SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE IS MADE SMALLER BY TRANSFERRING PART OF IT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR,+ HE SAID.

+IF THIS CAN BE DONE WITHOUT INCURRING LOSSES TO THE GOVERNMENT SERVANTS, NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WILL NOT BE AFFECTED.+

+IF, DUE TO THE EFFICIENCY OF THE PRIVATE ADMINISTRATION, SERVICES PREVIOUSLY INCURRING LOSSES OR NOT MAKING MUCH PROFIT BECAME PROFITABLE, THEN THE WORKERS WILL NOT ONLY GAIN, BUT THE COUNTRY WILL BECOME RICHER AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL OBTAIN MORE REVENUE+.

-- MORE 1745/PA

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO BELIEVED THAT WITH THE PROCEEDS OF THE SALE OF BUILDINGS, EQUIPMENT AND OTHER GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE GOVERNMENT'S FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT THAT SOLD NOT BE PRIVATISED, WOULD MULTIPLY.

HE CITED AN EXAMPLE OF THE TELECOMS WHICH HAD AN ASSET OF MORE THAN \$2 BILLION.

HE SAID THAT MAN NORMALLY WOULD NOT FAVOUR CHANGE +BUT WE KNOW THAT ONLY THOSE WHO ARE BRAVE ENOUGH TO CHANGE THEIR DESTINY WILL BE SUCCESSFUL+.

+PRIVATISATION IS A FORM OF CHANGE. THIS CHANGE IS WELL PLANNED,+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA 1746/PA