

MAHATHIR-TECHNOLOGY

(EMBARGO: FOR AUTOMATIC RELEASE AT 2230 HOURS TODAY, JAN. 6)

KUALA LUMPUR, JAN. 6 (BERNAMA) -- (A) DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT THAT MALAYSIANS SHOULD ADOPT A MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE IN ACQUIRING INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY FROM FOREIGN VENTURES IN THIS COUNTRY.

HE SAID THAT MALAYSIANS SHOULD ALSO EQUIP THEMSELVES WITH THE KNOWLEDGE TO DEVELOP TECHNOLOGY AS WELL BECAUSE TECHNOLOGY WAS A DYNAMIC DISCIPLINE AND FAST DEVELOPING.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE REGRETTED THAT DESPITE PRAGMATIC INDUSTRIALISATION POLICIES IMPLEMENTED SINCE INDEPENDENCE AND JOINT VENTURES, THERE HAD BEEN NO GROWTH OF LOCALLY OWNED INDUSTRIES USING NEW TECHNOLOGY.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS (MID) HERE WHERE HE WAS CONFERRED HONARARY FELLOWSHIP OF THE INSTITUTE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT WHILE THERE MIGHT BE AN UNWILLINGNESS AMONG FOREIGNERS TO TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY, IT WAS UNDELIABLE THAT A NUMBER OF NEWLY INDUSTRIALISING COUNTRIES (NIC'S) SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACQUIRE NEW TECHNOLOGY.

-- MORE 2149/LK

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"WE HAVE TO ASK WHY MALAYSIANS SEEM UNABLE TO ACQUIRE THE TECHNOLOGIES THAT JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA, TAIWAN, HONG KONG AND EVEN SINGAPORE SEEM ABLE TO ACQUIRE. IS IT BECAUSE OUR APPROACH OR PREPAREDNESS TO ACCEPT NEW TECHNOLOGIES ARE WRONG?"

"IF FOREIGNERS RELATIVELY UNFAMILIAR WITH OUR LAWS AND OUR BUREAUCRACY CAN COME HERE AND EMPLOY LOCAL LABOUR TO BUILD A BUILDING FASTER AND BETTER THAN US, IS IT BECAUSE THEY HAVE SECRET TECHNOLOGIES OR IS IT SIMPLY BECAUSE WE THINK OUR WAY, IS SUPERIOR AND THERE IS NOTHING TO LEARN FROM OTHERS?"

HE SAID THAT MALAYSIANS SHOULD BE READY TO LEARN AND STOP LAMENTING ABOUT THE RELUCTANCE OF OTHERS TO TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IN ACQUIRING NEW TECHNOLOGY, THE COUNTRY NEED NOT GO INTO ALL FIELDS BUT SELECT CERTAIN AREAS.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT MALAYSIA COULD DO THIS BECAUSE IT HAD PROVEN ITSELF CAPABLE OF ACQUIRING AND DEVELOPING NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PLANTATION INDUSTRY.

-- M O R E 2154/LK

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"ONE AREA THAT CANNOT BE MISSED IF WE ARE TO INDUSTRIALISE IS METALS. NO COUNTRY WHICH DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE BEHAVIOR AND APPLICATION OF METALS CAN EVER HOPE TO INDUSTRIALISE AND THE BASIC METAL FOR INDUSTRY IS STILL IRON AND STEEL."

ON THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NEW INSTITUTE WHICH HAS INDUSTRIALISTS, BUSINESS MAGNATES AND ENTERPRENEURS AMONG ITS MEMBERS, HE SAID THE ORGANISATION COULD DO MUCH TO REALISE THE MALAYSIA INCORPORATED AND PRIVATISATION CONCEPTS BY SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE WITH THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

-- BERNAMA 2158/LK