

MAHATHIR

BY (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 1 (BERNAMA)-- MALAYSIANS ARE PARTLY TO BLAME IF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IS NOT TAKING PLACE AS IT SHOULD BE IN THE COUNTRY, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THIS WAS BECAUSE THERE WERE GROUPS WHICH REFUSED TO ACCEPT OR WERE TOO LAZY TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT IMPORTED TECHNOLOGY UNDER THE PRETEXT THAT THEY WERE ALREADY KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THE FIELD, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

HE WAS OPENING THE +JAPAN TECHNOFAIR '84' A 10-DAY EXHIBITION OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS ORGANIZED BY THE JAPAN EXTERNAL TRADE ORGANIZATION (JETRO) AT THE CHANGKAT PAVILION HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID SOME ARRAGANT MALAYSIAN TECHNICAL OFFICERS EVEN TOLD HIM THAT IT WAS NOT WORTHWHILE LEARNING FROM THE JAPANESE BECAUSE THE JAPANESE THEMSELVES WERE LEARNING FROM THE WEST. HENCE, MALAYSIANS SHOULD INSTEAD LEARN FROM THE SOURCE.

+BUT THERE ARE MERE EMPTY WORDS BECAUSE THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE ARE SHOWING NO SIGN THAT THEY ARE LEARNING FROM THE WEST, + HE SAID.

IT WAS THIS ATTITUDE THAT CAUSED MALAYSIA TO BE LAGGING BEHIND INDUSTRIALLY FROM COUNTRIES LIKE SOUTH KOREA, TAIWAN, HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE? HE ADDED. -- MORE 1430/0M

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+SUCH PEOPLE CANNOT SEE SUCCESS SMILING AT THEM IN THE FACE BUT WHEN THEY FAIL, THEY NOT TAKE THE BLAME AND INSTEAD BLAME OTHERS, + HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER DID NOT DENY THAT THERE WERE FOREIGN ENTREPRENEURS WHO REFUSED TO TRANSFER THEIR TECHNOLOGY TO MALAYSIANS, HE SAID THAT WHAT WAS MORE IMPORTANT WAS THE WILLINGNESS OF MALAYSIANS THEMSELVES TO ACCEPT NEW TECHNOLOGY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT COUNTRIES LIKE SOUTH KOREA, TAIWAN AND HONG KONG WERE ALSO FACING PROBLEMS OF FOREIGN ENTREPRENEURS NOT TRANSFERRING TECHNOLOGY TO THEM.

HOWEVER, THEY WERE SUCCESSFUL IN ACQUIRING AND USING SUCH TECHNOLOGY IN DEVELOPING THEIR OWN INDUSTRIES, HE SAID.

-- MORE 1433:0M

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ON THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY, THE PRIME MINISTER CALLED ON LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS TO ACQUIRE TECHNOLOGY TO PRODUCE GOODS USING LOCALLY MADE MICROCHIPS.

HE SAID MALAYSIA HAD FOR A LONG TIME PRODUCED MICROCHIPS AND OTHER ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS BUT SO FAR NOT ONE LOCAL INDUSTRY HAD MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS USING THESE COMPONENTS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR URGED JAPAN TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE BY IMPORTING MORE MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS FROM MALAYSIA.

MALAYSIA, HE SAID, WAS FACING NUMEROUS PROBLEMS IN TRYING TO EXPORT THESE PRODUCTS TO INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, INCLUDING JAPAN.

-- MORE 1438/0M

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THE PRIME MINISTER THEN URGED JAPAN TO GIVE MEANING TO THE STRONG BONDS BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES BY BUYING MORE MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS FROM MALAYSIA.

EARLIER, JETRO VICE PRESIDENT ENCIK K.S. MIYAMOTO SAID TOTAL TRADE BETWEEN JAPAN AND MALAYSIA INCREASED FIVE-FOLD FROM US\$1.2 BILLION (ABOUT M82.8 BILLION) IN 1974 TO US\$9.9 BILLION (ABOUT M13.6 BILLION) LAST YEAR.

SUCH RAPID GROWTH IN TRADE SHOWED THE TANGIBLE BENEFITS DERIVED FROM BILATERAL TIES SINCE MALAYSIA DIVERSIFIED ITS INDUSTRIAL BASE, HE SAID.

HE FORESAW MALAYSIA ENTERING INTO A MORE EXCITING INDUSTRIAL ERA WHICH WOULD GAIN GREATER MOMENTUM WITH ITS STRONG POSITION AS A MAJOR COMMODITY SUPPLIER AND ITS STABLE POLITICAL CLIMATE.

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