

PM - INDUSTRIALIZATION

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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 5⁸⁴ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT MALAYSIA'S VIGOROUS INDUSTRIALIZATION DRIVE IS ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDE GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT TO ITS RAPIDLY GROWING WORKFORCE.

HE SAID THE ONLY WAY FOR THE COUNTRY TO GROW AND PROSPER AND OFFER AMPLE EMPLOYMENT TO ITS PEOPLE WAS THROUGH INDUSTRIALIZATION AS AGRICULTURE AND MINING OFFERED COMPARATIVELY SMALLER JOB OPPORTUNITIES BECAUSE OF LAND AND RESOURCE SCARCITIES.

IN VIEW OF THIS, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENTS TO EXPAND ITS INDUSTRIAL SECTOR BY OFFERING ATTRACTIVE INCENTIVES AND ENCOURAGING FOREIGN CAPITAL INFLOW.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WHEN OPENING THE SEVENTH MAJECA-JAMECA JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE HERE.

HE SAID MALAYSIA'S LABOUR FORCE REACH 6.3 MILLION BY NEXT YEAR. OF FIGURE 2.6 MILLION WOULD BE IN THE 25-39 AGE GROUP OR 41.1 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL LABOUR FORCE.

THE COUNTRY'S WORKING AGE POPULATION WAS EXPECTED TO GROW FROM 8.1 MILLION IN 1980 TO 9.3 MILLION NEXT YEAR. -- MORE 1355/MK

ZCZC N043 (F)

PM - INDUSTRIALIZATION 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE MOTIVATION BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT'S LOOK EAST POLICY WAS THUS CLEAR.

+IT IS IN THE EAST THAT WE CAN FIND SEVERAL MODELS RELEVANT TO OUR APPROACH TOWARDS INDUSTRIALIZATION.'

+THE POLICY IS ONE OF THE WAYS TO ENABLE OUR WORKFORCE TO ACQUIRE NEW VALUES COMMENSURATE WITH OUR LONG - TERM INDUSTRIALIZATION PROGRAMME.+

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO INTRODUCE TWO MORE FORMS OF TRAINING, NAMELY INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES IN HIGHER LEARNING AND UNIVERSITIES AND IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT: AND TRAINING INSTITUTES AND ADMINISTRATION TO COMPLEMENT EXISTING YOUTH TRAINING PROGRAMMES.

THE THREE EXISTING TRAINING MODALITIES ARE IN-PLANT TRAINING? ACADEMIC/TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT TRAINING .

+ALTHOUGH THESE EFFORTS ARE SMALL COMPARED WITH OUR NEEDS, WE WILL STEP UP THESE PROGRAMMES AS WE BEGIN TO GATHER MORE INFORMATION ON THE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EACH PROGRAMME.+ -- MORE 1402/MK

ZCZC N044 (F)

PM - INDUSTRIALIZATION 3 KUALA LUMPUR

TOUCHING ON SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA WELCOMED VARIOUS FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO HELP MODERNIZE SUCH INDUSTRIES IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID SMALL ENTERPRISES SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEVELOP AT A MUCH FASTER RATE NOW THAT MORE PEOPLE WERE BEING TRAINED IN THE VARIOUS FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION AND THAT THE LOCAL ECONOMIC STRUCTURE WAS CHANGING RAPIDLY, WITH MANUFACTURING INCREASING ITS SHARE OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT.

MALAYSIA, HE SAID, WOULD LIKE IN PARTICULAR TO SEE LARGE, MEDIUM AND SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES DEVELOP IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY WOULD REINFORCE THE STRENGTH OF ONE ANOTHER.

+THEY MUST BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO ONE ANOTHER SO THAT ALL THE SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY WILL PROSPER AND PRODUCTIVITY IS ENHANCED HE ADDED. - - BERNAMA 1405/MK