

PM - JAPAN

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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 5 (BERNAMA) -- THE PRIME MINISTER HAS AGAIN VOICED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH JAPAN'S CONTINUING POLICY OF CLOSING ITS MARKET TO PRODUCTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIKE MALAYSIA.

SPEAKING TO JAPANESE AND MALAYSIAN CORPORATE LEADERS HERE, TODAY, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD REMINDED JAPAN THAT ITS PRESENT PROSPERITY WAS DUE TO THE PROSPERITY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.

IT WOULD NOT BE TO JAPAN'S LONG-TERM BENEFITS TO CONTINUE TO DENY MARKET ACCESS TO POOR COUNTRIES, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE MAJECA-JAMECA (MALAYSIAN-JAPANESE ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION AND JAPANESE-MALAYSIAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT FOR POOR COUNTRIES TO BUY MORE FROM RICH COUNTRIES, THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD TO SELL THEIR PRODUCTS TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

+CLOSING ONE'S DOORS TO OTHER MIGHT RESULT IN SHORT-TERM GAINS BUT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE COUNTRY CONCERNED IN THE LONG RUN,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE 1537/SA

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THIS IS THE SECOND TIME IN LESS THAN A WEEK THAT DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HAS HIT OUT AT JAPAN'S TRADE POLICY.

IN OPENING THE A JAPANESE HIGH-TECHNOLOGY FAIR HERE ON RIDAY, HE HAD SAID THAT JAPAN'S POLICY WAS BENEFITTING ONLY THE RICH NATIONS.

HE TOLD HIS AUDIENCE TODAY: +IT FOLLOWS THAT IF THIS REGION BECOMES MORE PROSPEROUS, SO WILL JAPAN.

+THE PROSPERITY OF YOUR CUSTOMERS MEANS YOUR OWN PROSPERITY AND SO THE MORE YOU BUY FROM THEM, THE MORE PROSPEROUS YOU WILL BECOME.+

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HOPED JAMECA COULD INFLUENCE THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND ITS AGENCIES TO ACT ON ASPIRATIONS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO GAIN BETTER ACCESS TO THE JAPANESE MARKET.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE ASSOCIATION, WITH ITS CLOSE AND LONG TIES WITH ITS MALAYSIAN COUNTERPART, WOULD UNDERSTAND BETTER AND SYMPATHIZE WITH THE MALAYSIAN NEED FOR MARKET ACCESS TO JAPAN.

MAJECA, ON THE OTHER HAND, SHOULD REDOUBLE EFFORTS TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT SEEK MORE AVENUES FOR LOCAL PRODUCTS, ESPECIALLY MANUFACTURERS. -- MORE 1349/MK

ZCZC NO41 (F)

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MAJECA SHOULD ALSO KEEP ITS COUNTERPART WELL-IN FORMED OF THE NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS OF MALAYSIA.

THE PRIME MINISTER SUGGESTED THAT BOTH ASSOCIATION-EXPLORED NEW WAYS AND MEANS TO ENHANCE THE COOPERATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN THEM. -- BERNAMA 1350/MK