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PETALING JAYA, MARCH 13 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED A DIRECTIVE PREVENTING GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES FROM +PINCHING+ OFFICERS OR STAFF FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

THE PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, SAID TODAY THAT THE MOVE WAS NECESSARY AS THERE WERE STILL SOME GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES WHICH WERE IN THE HABIT OF DOING SO.

SPEAKING AT A SENDING OFF CEREMONY FOR MALAYSIAN TRAINEES TO JAPAN HERE, DATUK SERP DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TIGHTEN UP REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE TRASFERS OF OFFICERS FROM ONE DEPARTMENT TO ANOTHER DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY.

THE TRAINEES WOULD BE UNDERGOING TRAINING UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF GKM (CONFEDERATION OF MALAY CONTRACTORS) DEVELOPMENT SDN. BERHAD.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENT, NO TRANSFERS OF OFFICERS OR STAFF FROM ONE DEPARTMENT TO ANOTHER WOULD BE AFFECTED WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE ORIGINAL DEPARTMENT.

HE SAID THE MOVE WAS NOT INTENDED TO STOP THE TRANSFERS OF OFFICERS BUT RATHER TO PREVENT THE +PINCHING+ OF OFFICERS THROUGH FANTASTIC SALARY OFFERS. -- MORE 1455/SA.
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HE ADVISED THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO FOLLOW THE GOVERNMENT'S MOVE BY STOPPING THE +STEALING+ OF OFFICERS FROM OTHER COMPANIES.

ON THE LOOK EAST POLICY, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHPR SAID ACCUSATIONS THAT THE POLPCY ONLY BENEFITS JAPANESE CONTRACTORS SHOULD BE STOPPED.

HE SAID THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE GIVING OF TENDERS TO, JAPANESE CONTRACTORS TO UNDERTAKE MAJOR PROJECTS IN THE COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER MAINTAINED THAT THE POLICY HAD ENABLED BUMIPUTERA CONTRACTORS TO LEARN, NEW TECHNOLOGY THROUGH THEIR PARTICIPATION IN JOSNT-VENTURES WITH FOREIGN CONTRACTORS.

THIS WOULD HELP BUMIPUTERA CONTRACTORS INCREASE THEIR CAPABILITIES TO WIN BIGGER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NATION'S DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAID SOME SMALL-TIME CONTRACTORS HAD ALREADY BECOME BIG-TIME CONTRACTORS, CAPABLE OF PRODUCING THEIR OWN BUILDING MATERIALS. -- MORE 1520/SA

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ADVISED THE 13 PARTICIPANTS OF THE PROGRAMME -- 13 CIVIL ENGINEERS, A QUANTITY SURVEYOR AND TWO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS -- WHO WOULD BE GIVEN ON-THE-JOB TRAINING IN JAPAN TO CONCENTRATE ON THEIR TRAINING ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD BE FACING A DIFFERENT SET OF VALUES AND PROBABLY A STRICTER DISCIPLINE.

THEY SHOULD ALSO SERVE THEIR RESPECTIVE COMPANIES WITH DEDICATION AND UNDIVIDED LOYALTY ON THEIR RETURN TO THE COUNTRY AND BE PREPARED TO FACE CRITICISM IN THE INTEREST OF SELF IMPROVEMENT AND INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF REGARDED CRITICISM AS A FORM OF +FEEDBACK+ TO IMPROVE ITS PERFORMANCE.

HE URGED THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO BE MORE AGRESSIVE IN THEIR SEARCH FOR OVERSEAS MARKET FOR THEIR PRODUCTS.

HE SAID WHILE IN NEW YORK LAST YEAR, HE WAS ASKED- AS TO THE TYPES OF PRODUCT MALAYSIA WAS IN THE POSITION TO OFFER TO THE UNITED STATES.

HE SAID MALAYSIANS GENERALLY PREFER TO PRODUCE ONLY 600DS WITH READY MARKET RATHER THAN VENTURING INTO SOME NEW PRODUCTS WITH A VIEW TO FINDING THEIR MARKETS LATER.

AS A RESULT, THE COUNTRY WOULD ALWAYS BE LEFT BEHIND BY OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH WERE MORE AGRESSIVE IN TERMS OF FINDING MARKETS FOR THE LESS TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS. -- BERNAMA 1540/MK