

MAHATHIR - STRATEGY
3M

84 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 29 (BERNAMA) -- THE STRATEGY OF THE NATION'S DEVELOPMENT WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARDS STRENGTHENING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WOHAHAD SAID TODAY.

THIS WILL ENSURE THE OPTIMUM USE OF THE COUNTRY'S LIMITED ECONOMIC RESOURCES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHEN TABLING THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN (FMP) IN THE DEWAN HAKYAT.

THE SPEECH WAS CARRIED LIVE BY RTW.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE REPORT CONTAINED GUIDELINES ON THE INJECTING OF NEW VALUES AND THE STRATEGY OF IMPLEMENTATION IN LINE WITH CURRENT NEEDS.

HE SAID THE STRATEGY ON THE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THE COUNTRY INVOLVED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, WITH EMPHASIS THAT ECONOMIC RESOURCES, INCLUDING MANPOWER, BE WELL UTILIZED. --- WORE 1805/MB

ZCZC N138 (F/S)

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THIS, HE SAID, WAS IN LINE WITH THE +MALAYSIA INCORPORATED+ CONCEPT AND THE +LOOK EAST+ POLICY WHICH STRESSED ON VALUES AND ATTITUDES THAT SHOULD BE ADOPTED BY THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID THAT THIS WOULD CREATE A SPIRIT OF DILIGENCE, DEDICATION AND SELF-RELIANCE AMONG THE PEOPLE.

THESE ELEMENTS WERE AIMED AT BRINGING ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF THE +CLEAN, EFFICIENT AND TRUSTWORTHY+ AND +LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE+ CONCEPTS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE REPORT THIS TIME WAS DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS REPORTS IN THAT THE DOCUMENT NOT ONLY CONTAINED THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROSPECTS BUT ALSO PROVIDED GUIDELINES FOR THE INCULCATION OF NEW VALUES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES APPROPRIATE TO CURRENT NEEDS.

HE SAID THAT EFFORTS TO ERADICATE POVERTY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ONE OF THE TWO MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. -- MORE 1810/MB

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS GIVING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT, WHICH MEANT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POOR RURAL COMMUNITY.

THIS WOULD BE ONE OF THE EFFORTS TO DISTRIBUTE THE WEALTH FROM THE URBAN AND THE RICH TO THE RURAL AND THE POOR.

+BILLIONS OF RINGGIT HAD BEEN EXPENDED FOR THIS PURPOSE AND BILLIONS MORE WILL BE SPENT ON FUTURE PROJECTS,+ HE SAID.

AMONG THE MAJOR PROJECTS WERE THE MUDA AND KADA IRRIGATION SCHEMES AND THE JENGA TRIANGLE, PAHANG TENGGARA, KEDA, FELDA AND RISDA PROJECTS.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, COULD BE PROUD OF ITS RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY, AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS WHICH HAD BECOME EXAMPLES FOR OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES INVOLVED IN DEVELOPMENT. -- WORE 1815/MB

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+NEVERTHELESS, WE DO NOT LIKE TO PRAISE OURSELVES AND BE COMPLACENT ABOUT OUR ACHIEVEMENTS: THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO REVIEW AND FIND WAYS AND EFFORTS TO ACCELERATE RURAL DEVELOPMENT,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT DURING THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE 'MP AN INDEPTH STUDY WAS UNDERTAKEN AND A NEW APPROACH ADOPTED..

HE SAID THE VIEW BY INTELLECTUALS THAT POVERTY AMONG FARMERS IN THE COUNTRY WAS ALSO CAUSED BY ABSENTEE LANDLORDS WAS NOT ACCURATE.

HE SAID THAT THEY WERE IN FACT THEORETICIANS INFLUENCED BY WESTERN FINDINGS.

THE MATTER MIGHT HAVE BEEN TRUE IN EGYPT, PAKISTAN AND IRAN IN THE PAST, HE SAID, BUT IN THIS COUNTRY THE ABSENTEE LANDLORDS WERE THOSE WHO INHERITED VERY SMALL PIECES OF LAND UNDER THE MUSLIM +FARAID+ SYSTEM AND MOST OF THEM WERE JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS, CLERKS AND OFFICE BOYS WORKING IN THE TOWNS. -- MORE

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HE SAID THE INTELLECTUALS HAD CONSTANTLY CALLED FOR THE REDISTRIBUTION OF LARGE TRACTS OF LAND SUPPOSEDLY OWNED BY THE ABSENTEE LANDLORDS WHO LIVED IN TOWNS AND RENT OUT THEIR LAND TO POOR FARMERS.

+IN FACT, THERE ARE NO RICH 'ZAMINDARS' IN MALAYSIA WHO RENT OUT THOUSANDS OF HECTARES OF PADI LAND OR FARM LAND TO POOR FARMERS,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONVICTED THAT A WISE APPROACH THAT WOULD BRING MORE BENEFITS TO FARMERS AS WELL AS THE NATION WAS TO PROMOTE GROUP FARMING AND TO REGROUP NEIGHBOURING KAMPUNGS INTO SMALL TOWNSHIPS.

HE SAID THAT PADI FARMERS COULD MERGE THEIR HOLDINGS WITH ADJACENT PLOTS TO FORM 'ESTATES'.

FOR THIS PURPOSE, ESTATE MANAGERS WOULD BE TRAINED BY THE GOVERNMENT BUT THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE PAID BY THE ESTATE COOPERATIVES.

- - M O R E 1823/HM

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DATUK SERP DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE ESTATE COOPERATIVES WOULD ALSO OWN THE EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERIES.

HE ALSO HIT OUT AT POLITICIANS AND OTHERS WANTING TO BECOME +CHAMPIONS+ WHO TRIED TO DISTORT THE GOVERNMENT'S GOOD INTENTIONS.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS FORMULATING 'A COMPREHENSIVE INDUSTRIAL MASTER PLAN.

IT WOULD, IN PARTICULAR, ENSURE AN EFFICIENT LINKAGE BETWEEN SECTORS, OPTIMUM UTILISATION OF RESOURCES AND A MORE BALANCED INDUSTRIAL GROWTH AMONG REGIONS.

HE STRESSED THAT THE SUCCESS OR OTHERWISE OF THE STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INDUSTRIALIZATION PROGRAMME DID NOT DEPEND SOLELY ON POLICY, CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY.--MORE

"WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT AND THE INTEREST AND WILLINGNESS OF WORKERS TO WORK HARD", HE SAID.

COUNTRIES THAT WERE NOW INDUSTRIALLY ADVANCED HAD MADE A LOT OF SACRIFICES IN THE PROCESS OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT WORKERS IN THESE COUNTRIES HAD STRIVED HARD, PLACING LESS IMPORTANCE ON SELF-INTEREST AND IT WAS ONLY WHEN THESE COUNTRIES HAD ADVANCED DID THEY STRESS ON THE ADDITIONAL 'NEEDS OF THE WORKERS.'

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT MALAYSIA HAD ENTERED A NEW ERA-- WHERE EMPHASIS WAS GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SECOND ROUND IMPORT SUBSTITUTION AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES.

WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES, VARIOUS ADDITIONAL BENEFITS OR LINKAGES WOULD BE GENERATED, ESPECIALLY IN THE UTILIZATION OF THE COUNTRY'S NATURAL RESOURCES, HE SAID. - MORE 1910BW

THE INDUSTRIES WOULD NOT ONLY SAVE FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUT, WOULD ALSO PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN TO MANAGE LARGE SCALE INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IN NEW INDUSTRIES, ONLY IN-HOUSE UNIONS SHOULD BE FORMED AND THERE WAS NO PLACE FOR THOSE WHO INTENDED TO USE INDUSTRIAL ACTION AS A BASE FOR PERSONAL POWER.

"AS A DEVELOPING NATION, MALAYSIA CANNOT AFFORD TO IMITATE THE PRACTICES OF DEVELOPED NATIONS.

"IF THE ECONOMIES OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES COULD STILL COLLAPSE IN THE FACE OF IRRESPONSIBLE INDUSTRIAL ACTIONS, WHAT MORE FOR A DEVELOPING NATION LIKE MALAYSIA?", HE ASKED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA'S STRENGTH AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION HAD BEEN TESTED DURING THESE TIMES OF ECONOMIC RECESSION, - MORE 1910 BW

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HE SAID THAT DESPITE THE RECESSION, MALAYSIA STILL MANAGED TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS THROUGH DETERMINATION AND DILIGENCE--

HE SAID THAT THOUGH THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT THE RECESSION MIGHT END, THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THE PEOPLE COULD BE COMPLACENT AND MAKE VARIOUS DEMANDS.

"WE ARE NOW ENTERING A NEW ERA IN WHICH THE STRENGTH OF OUR ECONOMY WILL DEPEND COMPLETELY ON INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY AND OUR ABILITY TO COMPETE WITH OTHER NATIONS", HE ADDED. - BERNAMA 1918 Sw-