

MAHATHIR - BUMIPUTERA

BM

34 (P)  
KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 6 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE SAVINGS TO INCREASE INVESTMENT AND BUMIPUTERA EQUITY PARTICIPATION IN THE COUNTRY, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SAVINGS AND EQUITY PARTICIPATION BY BUMIPUTERAS WOULD BE MADE THROUGH THE NATIONAL UNIT TRUST (ASN) AND OTHER SAVING FACILITIES.

UNIT TRUSTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO REMAIN AS AVENUES FOR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT NOT EVERYONE COULD ACTIVELY BE INVOLVED IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES, HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE \$74 MILLION PERNAS HEADQUARTERS BUILDING HERE;

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HOPED PUBLIC AGENCIES WOULD CONTINUE TO STRIVE TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF THEIR SUBSIDIARIES AND HAND THEM OVER TO BODIES IN WHICH BUMIPUTERAS OWNED SHARES SUCH AS THE ASN.

HE REMINDED THEM THAT BUSINESS AGENCIES SET UP BY THE GOVERNMENT WERE NOT AIMED AT MAKING PROFITS FOR THE GOVERNMENT BUT WERE THERE AS TRUSTEES FOR THE BUMIPUTERAS IN GENERAL. -MORE 1235 BW

ZCZC N031

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"WE CANNOT TRANSFER SUCCESSFUL COMPANIES TO INDIVIDUAL BUMIPUTERAS OR SMALL GROUPS OF BUMIPUTERAS BECAUSE THIS MEANS USING GOVERNMENT FUNDS FOR THE BENEFIT OF A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE".

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE ASN WAS SET UP SO THAT PROFITS FROM GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT WOULD BENEFIT AS MANY BUMIPUTERAS AS POSSIBLE.

THE HANDING OVER OF GOVERNMENT COMPANIES WAS ALSO WISE FROM THE ASPECT OF THE NATION'S WEALTH.

"AS SUCH THE TRANSFER OF SUCCESSFUL COMPANIES TO PNB AND ASN WAS TO FULFILL THE AIMS OF SETTING UP SUCH COMPANIES AS PERNAS AND THEY NEED NOT FEEL DISAPPOINTED", HE ADDED.

DATUK SERIDR. MAHATHIR SAID WHILE INCREASING BUMIPUTERA EQUITY PARTICIPATION, THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO TO ENSURE THAT THE NUMBER OF BUMIPUTERAS ACTIVELY AND DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY INCREASED FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH VARIOUS POLICIES ENCOURAGED BUMIPUTERA PARTICIPATION IN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. - MORE 1240 BW  
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HE SAID THIS WAS ON THE REALIZATION THAT EQUITY OWNERSHIP THROUGH ONLY SAVINGS WAS A PASSIVE FORM OF BUMIPUTERA PARTICIPATION IN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

+ BUMIPUTERA INVESTORS THROUGH THE ASN AND OTHER SUCH BODIES DID NOT PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE, DID NOT TAKE PART IN MANAGEMENT, IN DECISION MAKING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES+ HE SAID.

+THE INVESTORS DID NOT TAKE RISKS AND DID NOT EXPERIENCE THE UPS AND DOWNS OF A PARTICULAR BUSINESS OPERATION+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR PRAISED PERNAS WHICH WAS INVOLVED IN 100 COMPANIES IN THE COUNTRY AND WHICH OWNED ASSETS WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF ABOUT \$2,000 MILLION AND HAD TRANSFERRED EQUITY AND SHARES IN 11 COMPANIES TO BUMIPUTERAS THROUGH PERMODALAN NASIONAL BERHAD (PNB).

THIS REPRESENTED THE BIGGEST NUMBER OF TRANSFER FROM ANY TRUST AGENCIES TO PNB.

ALTHOUGH SUCH PROFITABLE COMPANIES WERE NO LONGER WITH PERNAS, SAID THE PRIME MINISTER, PERNAS STILL MADE PROFITS FROM ITS EXISTING COMPANIES.

HE BELIEVED PERNAS WAS IN A POSITION TO TRANSFER EQUITY AND SHARES FROM A NUMBER OF OTHER COMPANIES IN FUTURE.

- - MORE 1330/LK

ZCZC NO41

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HOWEVER, HE SAID THE CONTRIBUTION THAT COULD BE MADE BY PUBLIC AGENCIES SUCH AS PERNAS WAS LIMITED AND COULD ONLY PROVIDE THE INITIAL BUSINESS EXPOSURE.

THIS WAS UNDERSTANDABLE IN VIEW OF THE RISKS AND BITTER EXPERIENCE IN BUSINESS WHICH HAD TO BE BORNE.

+DIRECT PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WILL ONLY MAKE OUR ENTREPRENEURS VIGOROUS AND RESILIENT+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THE NEED FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO BE SELF RELIANT AND GAIN EXPERIENCE IN VARIOUS TECHNIQUES SO AS TO IMPROVE THEIR PERFORMANCE IN VARIOUS FIELDS.

+DON'T WAIT FOR BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE GOVERNMENT ONLY AND EXPECT BUSINESS FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO COME BY ITSELF BECAUSE WE ARE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES,+ HE SAID.

THEY SHOULD BE AGGRESSIVE IN ATTEMPTS TO GET GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, HE ADDED.

- - BERNAMA 1334/LK