

MAHATHIR - VISION

24 ①
KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 13 (BERNAMA)-- THE DREAM OF CREATING A MALAYSIAN NATION WHICH IS PROGRESSIVE, RESPECTED AND WITH INTEGRITY IS NOT AN ABSTRACT VISION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS AN OBJECTIVE WHICH SHOULD STRIVE FOR AND NURTURED UNTIL IT BECAME A REALITY.

SPEAKING AT THE SILVER JUBILEE DINNER OF THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS MALAYSIA (IEM) AT THE HILTON HOTEL HERE, HE SAID TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE EVERY KNOWLEDGE, EXPERTISE AND TECHNOLOGY SHOULD BE UTILISED.

IN THIS RESPECT THE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT ONLY ACQUIRE TECHNOLOGY FROM OTHERS BUT ALSO STRIVE TO MASTER THE REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY, HE SAID.

"ACQUIRING TECHNOLOGY FROM OTHERS DOES NOT MEAN WE ARE BACKWARD, 'DEPENDENT OR SOMETHING HUMILIATING.'"

HE REMINDED THAT THERE WAS NO NATION OR PEOPLE BEING IN CONTROL OF ALL THE ASPECTS OF TECHNOLOGY IN THIS WORLD. -- MORE 2125/II

MAHATHIR - VISION 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

EVEN THE MOST DEVELOPED NATION DID NOT HAVE ALL THE TECHNOLOGY IT REQUIRED AND HAD TO ACQUIRE THEM FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, HE ADDED.

IN SHORT, THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD WERE INTER-DEPENDENT AS FAR AS TECHNOLOGY WAS CONCERNED, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, COMMENTING ON ALLEGATIONS THAT FOREIGNERS WERE NOT SINCERE OR DID NOT WISH TO TRANSFER THEIR TECHNOLOGY TO MALAYSIANS, SAID THE PEOPLE WERE 'NAIVE' IF THEY THINK THAT FOREIGNERS WOULD FULLY TRANSFER THEIR TECHNOLOGY.

"IF WE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY WE WILL ALSO NOT BE KEEN IN TRANSFERRING IT WHOLLY. AS SUCH WHY SHOULD WE BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO THE FULL TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY FROM OTHERS," HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WERE NOT KEEN TO FULLY TRANSFER THEIR TECHNOLOGY, A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SUCH TRANSFERS HAD TAKEN PLACE.

THIS COULD BE SEEN FROM THE FACT THAT A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WHICH IN THE PAST DID NOT POSSESS ANY TECHNOLOGY HAD NOW MASTERED VARIOUS FORMS OF TECHNOLOGY AND HAD ACHIEVED PROGRESS. -- MORE 2128/II

ZCZC N179

MAHATHIR - VISION 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

CITING SOUTH KOREA, TAIWAN, HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE AS EXAMPLES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THESE COUNTRIES HAD ACQUIRED TECHNOLOGY FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND HAD SUCCESSFULLY USED SUCH TECHNOLOGY TO COMPETE WITH THE DEVELOPED NATIONS.

"IN OTHER WORDS, THESE COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ACQUIRING TECHNOLOGY FROM OTHERS AND WERE USING IT EFFECTIVELY. THE QUESTION IS WHY MALAYSIA IS FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO ACQUIRE TECHNOLOGY? IS THERE ANY DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MALAYSIA?" HE ASKED.

HE SAID THAT THERE WAS NO DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS MALAYSIA AND THERE WAS NO REASON THAT SUCH DISCRIMINATION SHOULD EXIST.

"IF WE EXAMINE OURSELVES, WE WILL FIND THE REASONS WHY IT IS DIFFICULT TO ACQUIRE TECHNOLOGY," HE ADDED. -- MORE 2130/II

MAHATHIR - VISION 4 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

THE PRIME MINISTER GAVE TWO REASONS WHY MALAYSIA WAS FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO ACQUIRE FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY.

FIRSTLY, THE ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE NOT TO BUY TECHNOLOGY IF IN THEIR ESTIMATE IT WAS EXPENSIVE AND SECONDLY THE PEOPLE EXPECTED THE TECHNOLOGY TO BE PRESENTED TO THEM ON A GOLDEN PLATTER.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED THAT A PARTICULAR TECHNOLOGY WAS CONSIDERED EXPENSIVE IF ITS USE WAS FOUND TO BE LIMITED. FOR INSTANCE, IF IT WAS ONLY FOR THE DOMESTIC MARKET WHICH MEANT THAT THE PROFITS ACCRUED WOULD BE INADEQUATE TO FINANCE THE HIGH COST OF THE TECHNOLOGY.

"IT IS THE SAME AS BUYING A BOEING 747 AIRCRAFT FOR A FLIGHT FROM KUALA LUMPUR TO Kuantan," HE SAID.

HE ALSO CRITICISED THE ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE WHO WANTED ALL THE AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY WITHOUT QUESTIONING RESEARCH AND EXAMINING THE VITAL ASPECTS OF ACQUIRING IT. -- MORE 2135/II

ZCZC N181

MAHATHIR - VISION 5 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WANTED THE JAPANESE BUILDING SECTOR TO TRAIN MALAYSIAN-PROFESSIONALS AND NON-PROFESSIONALS IN ALL FIELDS, FROM THE USE OF STEEL FRAMES TO PROJECT MANAGEMENT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, THERE WERE NOT MANY MALAYSIANS WHO WERE INTERESTED AND NEARLY ALL GAVE EXCUSES SUCH AS "NO TIME" AND THERE WERE ALSO THOSE WHO CLAIMED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO LEARN.

"BUT UNTIL NOW THERE ARE NO COMPANIES WHICH ARE 100 PER CENT MALAYSIAN-OWNED WHICH COULD USE STEEL FRAMES TO CONSTRUCT BUILDINGS AS BIG DAYABUMI WITHIN THE SPECIFIED TIME."

"AS A RESULT, AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE TECHNOLOGY HAS BEEN MISSED BECAUSE WE ARE ALL BUSY OR PROUD TO LEARN FROM OTHERS," HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SAME SITUATION PREVAILED IN OTHER FIELDS.

IT WAS DIFFERENT WITH COUNTRIES SUCH AS HONG KONG, TAIWAN AND SOUTH KOREA WHERE THE PEOPLE WERE PREPARED TO LEARN AND WERE ABLE TO PRODUCE MICRO-CHIP COMPUTERS AND OTHER ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS.

HE WAS UNHAPPY THAT THOUGH MALAYSIA WAS THE WORLD'S LARGEST PRODUCER OF MICROCHIPS THERE WAS NO LOCAL ENTREPRENEUR WHO USED IT TO PRODUCE ARTICLES. -- MORE 2140/II

MAHATHIR - VISION 6 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

"HOWE IS IT THAT HONG KONG, TAIWAN AND SOUTH KOREA CAN ACQUIRE TECHNOLOGY AND WE CANNOT," HE ASKED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REMINDED THE PEOPLE THAT THEY CANNOT BLAME OTHERS WHEN THEY CANNOT GET THEIR TECHNOLOGY.

"SEE FOR OURSELVES. WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO ACQUIRE TECHNOLOGY?"

"DO WE HAVE ENOUGH FACILITIES FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT?" HE ASKED. -- BERNAMA 2142/II