

MAHATHIR - RUBBER  
BM

84 ①  
KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 2 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT WILL CARRY OUT A NEW STUDY TO DETERMINE THE COUNTRY'S ATTITUDE AND APPROACH IN RUBBER PRODUCTION, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO CARRY OUT ITS OWN RESEARCH ON WIDER USAGE OF RUBBER.

IN THIS CONNECTION, AN EVALUATION COMMITTEE WOULD BE FORMED UNDER THE PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTRY, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER CHAIRING THE WEEKLY CABINET MEETING HERE.

THE CABINET TODAY DISCUSSED THE REPORT ON RUBBER COMPILED BY A TASK FORCE OF EIGHT INDEPENDENT EXPERTS.

THE REPORT, TITLED "THE MALAYSIAN NATURAL RUBBER INDUSTRY - 1983 TO 2000+", OUTLINED THE STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES TO BE UNDERTAKEN INCLUDING THE CONSOLIDATION AND EXPANSION OF THE AREA UNDER RUBBER AND STEPS FOR STEPPING UP PRODUCTION OF NATURAL RUBBER IN MALAYSIA.

-- MORE 1615/MB

MAHATHIR - RUBBER 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HOWEVER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BEAR THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN MIND BUT NOT ACCEPT THEM IN TOTO AS THERE WERE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE TASK FORCE.

HE QUOTED AS AN EXAMPLE THE TASK FORCE'S RECOMMENDATION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW ESTATES TO MEET RUBBER DEMAND WHICH, HE SAID, WAS AT VARIANCE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW IN ITS REPORT ON DYNAMIC RUBBER PRODUCTION.

HE SAID THE CABINET ALSO DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF RECRUITING FOREIGN LABOUR FOR LOCAL RUBBER PLANTATIONS TO OVERCOME THE LABOUR SHORTAGE.

+WE MAY HAVE TO BRING IN FOREIGN WORKERS BECAUSE SOME PLACES DO NOT HAVE ANY LABOUR FORCE WHILE THERE ARE ALSO ESTATES THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET WORKERS FROM AMONG THE LOCALS.+

-- BERNAMA 1635/MB