

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 18 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT HAS FORMULATED GUIDELINES ON PRIVATISATION AND WILL MAKE THEM PUBLIC SOON, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY;

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO IMPLEMENT THE PRIVATISATION AND THE MALAYSIA INCORPORATED POLICIES IN A BIG WAY.

OPENING A TWO-DAY CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR TOP BUSINESS LEADERS HERE, HE SAID THE TWO NEW POLICIES WOULD HAVE THE MOST IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON THE ROLE AND POSITION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

THE CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY THE NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (NCCIM) IS BEING ATTENDED BY ABOUT 100 TOP BUSINESS EXECUTIVES, SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND ACADEMICIANS.

THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED THAT THE MAJOR RATIONALE FOR PRIVATISATION WAS TO RELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL BURDEN, PROMOTE COMPETITION IN ECONOMY, RAISE EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY, ACCELERATE GROWTH OF PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND REDUCE THE SIZE AND PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR. -- MORE 1255/MB

MAHATHIR-GUIDELINES 2 KUALA LUMPUR

WHETHER THE PRIVATISATION SHOULD BE COMPLETE, PARTIAL OR SELECTIVE WOULD DEPEND ON CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT COOPERATION WAS AN IMPORTANT PRE-CONDITION FOR GOOD PERFORMANCE IN ANY ACTIVITY, VENTURE OR ORGANISATION AND EXCESSIVE DIVISIONS TEND TO DISPERSE AND DILUTE RESOURCES AND ENERGY.

"MALAYSIA INCORPORATED EMPHASISES COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR," HE SAID.

"WE SHOULD SEE THE NATION AS A CORPORATION, WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS THE COMMERCIAL ARM AND THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDING THE POLICY FRAMEWORK, DIRECTION AND THE NECESSARY BACK-UP SERVICES.

"IT IS A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP MUTUALLY REINFORCING, AND MUTUALLY REWARDING."

ITS SUCCESS REQUIRED THE RIGHT KIND OF VALUES AND ATTITUDE ON BOTH SIDES OR IT WOULD BE A RHETORICAL SLOGAN REPEATED "AD NAUSEUM", HE SAID. "THIS MUST BE AVOIDED," HE STRESSED. -- MORE 1300/AJ

MAHATHIR-GUIDELINES 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO STRESSED THE NEED FOR BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO ACCEPT NEW APPROACHES TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IF THEY WERE TO OVERCOME THE STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS AND TO MEET THE RISING EXPECTATIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

"WE CANNOT FOLD OUR ARMS AND ONLY DEPEND ON HOPE, PRAYERS OR THE CHARITY OF THE INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES," HE SAID.

"WE MUST MAKE A SUCCESS OF THE LOOK EAST POLICY, PRIVATISATION AND THE MALAYSIA INCORPORATED CONCEPT," HE SAID.

THESE NEW POLICIES* HE SAID, WOULD ASSIST THE COUNTRY IN PROMOTING AND ADOPTING PROGRESSIVE VALUES AND IN RAISING THE LEVEL OF PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY IN THE COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THERE WAS MORE THAN JUST THE 'HARDWARE' APPROACH TO RAISING PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY AND THE PROTECTION AND SUBSIDIES CANNOT BE RELIED UPON TO SOLVE THEM.

HUMAN ASPECTS WOULD HAVE A MOST IMPORTANT BEARING ON THE PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE ENTERPRISE, HE SAID. MORE 1325/AJ

MAHATHIR-GUIDELINES 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO CALLED ON THE CORPORATE LEADERS TO MAKE 'LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE' AS PART OF THEIR CORPORATE CULTURE.

'LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE IS AN EQUALLY VALID REQUIREMENT IN THE CORPORATE SECTOR AND YOUR PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES WILL SET THE EXAMPLE FOR YOUR MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEES TO FOLLOW, AND EMULATE,' HE SAID.

AS LEADERS? THEY SHOULD HAVE THE COURAGE TO MAKE SUCH A COMMITMENT AND SHOULD NOT BE MISLED BY THE PESSIMISTIC SO-CALLED EXPERTS, "GURUS" AND PUNDITS WHO WOULD ONLY PONTIFICATE FROM THEIR IVORY TOWERS AND PEDESTALS, HE SAID.

THE QUALITY OF THEIR LEADERSHIP, IN THE END, WOULD BE JUDGED BY THE DURABILITY, RESOLUTENESS AND STRENGTH OF THE COMMITMENT TO THE NATION HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID DUE TO THE MANY CONSTRAINTS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, THE EXPERTISE AND SKILLS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR NEEDED TO BE HARNESSSED FOR THE GOOD OF THE NATION AND PRIVATISATION WAS EXPECTED TO OVERCOME THE CONSTRAINTS.

HE ALSO STRESSED THE NEED FOR HIGHER SKILLS OF MANAGEMENT AS MORE OPPORTUNITIES WERE BEING OPENED UP FOR PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP. -- MORE 1340/AJ

MAHATHIR - GUIDELINES 5 KUALA LUMPUR

THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE COUNTRY TO +THINK-BIG+ AND TO MAKE PROGRESS IN ITS OUTWARDS-LOOKING STRATEGY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

IN LINE WITH ITS EFFORTS TO PUSH TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEAVY AND HIGH TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES, THE COUNTRY NEEDED TO HAVE A MORE GLOBAL VISION.

THE GROWTH OF MALAYSIAN INVESTMENT OVERSEAS AND ITS TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS WOULD DEMAND NEW SKILLS IN MANAGEMENT AND THEY SHOULD NO LONGER RETREAT TO THE CONFORMS OF A PROTECTED SAFE-MARKET, DEPENDENCE ON +MIDDLE-MEN+ AND PATRONAGE OF EVERY SORT.

TO REDUCE THE PRESENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE ECONOMY, THE PRIVATE SECTOR MUST RELY LESS AND LESS ON THE GOVERNMENT.

+MY REMARKS ON THE MOVE TOWARDS GETTING AWAY FROM SUBSIDY-MENTALITY THEREFORE, ARE AS APPLICABLE TO INDUSTRIALISTS AND BUSINESSMEN AS THEY ARE TO FARMERS,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO TOUCHED ON ETHICS AND MORALITY IN BUSINESS, SAYING THAT UNETHICAL BUSINESS PRACTICES COULD ONLY BRING DISCREDIT AND SHAME TO A COMPANY. -- MORE 1350/MB

MAHATHIR - GUIDELINES 6 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE PURSUIT OF PROFIT WAS ACCEPTABLE BUT NOT PROFITEERING.

HE SAID THE MALAYSIA INCORPORATED CONCEPT SOUGHT TO PROMOTE COOPERATION BETWEEN BUSINESSMEN AND OFFICIALS.

+SHOULD BUSINESSMEN EXHIBIT UNSCRUPULOUSNESS AND GREED, THEN COOPERATION FROM OFFICIALS WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING,+ HE SAID.

HE REMINDED THE TOP BUSINESS EXECUTIVES THAT MALAYSIA WAS NOW ON THE THRESHOLD OF A NEW PHASE IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

+I BELIEVE WE HAVE THE EXPERIENCE, RESOURCES AND THE COURAGE TO MOVE AHEAD AND TO ACHIEVE GREATER HEIGHTS IN OUR ENDEAVOURS,+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA 1355/MB