

MAHATHIR-LOOK EAST  
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KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 26 (BERNAMA)-- THE LOOK EAST POLICY HAS ENABLED THE MALAYS TO TAKE PART IN MAJOR PROJECTS AND ACQUIRE THE TECHNOLOGY TO BUILD SKYSCRAPERS, (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE TOLD THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE THAT THE MALAYS DID NOT GET SUB-CONTRACTS FOR MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS BEFORE THE POLICY WAS LAUNCHED.

IN FACT, THEY DID NOT HAVE THE CHANCE TO LEARN HOW TO LAY BRICKS EVEN, HE SAID.

+NOW, WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY, MALAYS MAKE UP 30 PERCENT OF THOSE ENGAGED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF SKYSCRAPERS SUCH AS THOSE BUILT UNDER THE DAYABUMI PROJECT, + HE SAID.

SCORES OF MALAY ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND THE LIKE WERE LEARNING SOPHISTICATED BUILDING TECHNOLOGY, HE ADDED WHEN REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED BY DELEGATES.--MORE 2335/PA

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HE SAID HE KNEW FROM HIS OWN OBSERVATION THAT NO MALAYS WERE EMPLOYED IN MAJOR BUILDING PROJECTS BEFORE THE LOOK EAST POLICY WAS INTRODUCED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT IMPOSED ON THE JAPANESE AND KOREANS AWARDED MAJOR CONTRACTS VARIOUS CONDITIONS TO ENSURE THEY EMPLOYED MALAYS, AND ALL THE CONDITIONS WERE ACCEPTED.

LOCAL NON-BUMIPUTERA DEVELOPERS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAD BEEN UNWILLING TO ACCEPT THE CONDITIONS.

THE AWARDING OF BIG CONTRACTS TO THE JAPANESE AND SOUTH KOREANS DID NOT MEAN THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREVENTING BUMIPUTERAS FROM CARRYING OUT MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

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"BUMIPUTERA COMPANIES OR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE THE CAPITAL AND THE EXPERTISE TO UNDERTAKE BIG PROJECTS LIKE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE 45-STORY PNB BUILDING ARE WELCOME TO MAKE THEIR BID AND WE ARE READY TO ATTEND TO THEM", HE ADDED. - BERNAMA 2330 BW