

MAHATHIR-CAPABILITY

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SANDAKAN, JULY 24 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO ENHANCE THE CAPABILITY OF MALAYSIANS IN THE ENGINEERING SECTOR SO THAT MORE COMPONENTS IN THE SECTOR COULD BE PRODUCED BY THE COUNTRY.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE MADE-IN-MALAYSIA TRUCK PRODUCED BY SYARIKAT MALAYSIA TRUCK SDN. BHD. (MALTRAK) HERE SIGNALLED THE SUCCESS IN THE ENGINEERING FIELD BY THE LOCAL PEOPLE,

THE TRUCK WAS LAUNCHED BY DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HERE YESTERDAY.

I HOPE THE TRUCK MADE BY MALAYSIA WILL ACHIEVE GREATER SUCCESS ALTHOUGH MALTRAK HAS NOT RECEIVED APPROVAL YET FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO COMMENCE PRODUCTION, HE TOLD REPORTERS HERE.

ACCORDING TO HIM, THE 60 TONNES TRUCK WAS VERY SUITABLE FOR USE IN LOGGING AREAS. THIS, HE SAID, DEMONSTRATED THE CAPABILITY OF MALAYSIANS,

ON HIS VISIT TO THE FEDERAL TERRITORY OF LABUAN, HE SAID THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS MAKING EFFORTS TO ATTRACT MORE INVESTORS TO SET UP THEIR INDUSTRIES, PARTICULARLY LIGHT INDUSTRIES, AND BUSINESSES ON THE ISLAND. -- MORE

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SITES WOULD BE SET UP FOR THE SETTING UP OF LIGHT INDUSTRIES IN
LABUAN. HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SPOKE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF PRIVATISING
THE LABUANPORT, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE SABAH ENERGY
CORPORATION, WHICH HAS ALREADY INDICATED ITS INTEREST, AND SEVERAL
OTHER PRIVATE FIRMS.

LAST NIGHT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, IN HIS SPEECH TO THE PEOPLE
OF SANDAKAN AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE HERE, REMINDED THEM THAT WEALTH
WOULD NOT COME JUST LIKE THAT ALTHOUGH SABAH AND MALAYSIA WERE:
ENDOWED WITH NATURAL RESOURCES LIKE TIMBER, OIL AND TIN.

THE RAW MATERIALS SHOULD BE WORKED ON BY THE PEOPLE WITH
DEDICATION BEFORE THEY COULD BE MADE THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF WEALTH,
HE STRESSED.

TOWARDS THIS OBJECTIVE, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD COME OUT WITH
VARIOUS SLOGANS TO AWAKEN THE SPIRIT OF THE LEADERS AND PEOPLE TO
WORK HARDER WITH DISCIPLINE AND DEDICATION SO THAT THE PRODUCTIVITY
OF THE NATION COULD BE STEPPED UP.

THE PRIME MINISTER, SAID HOWEVER THAT THE WEALTH ATTAINED SHOULD
NOT BE MISUSED TO AN EXTENT WHERE THERE WAS WASTAGE. IT SHOULD BE
UTILISED CAREFULLY SO THAT THE PEOPLE WOULD NOT SUFFER DURING TIMES
OF ECONOMIC RECESSION.--MORE

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He urged the people of Sabah to be patient as the Federal
Government was prepared to give a bigger allocation to the state for
the implementation of vital projects like the building of better
roads.

He reminded them not to be influenced by undesirable elements
whose sole intention was to bring about problems for the people and
country.

In his speech on behalf of the people of Sandakan, State
Resources Development Minister Encik Stephen Wong described the
Prime Minister as a very capable and far-sighted statesman.

He expressed the support of the people of Sandakan for Datuk
Seri Dr Mahathir's leadership in bringing about a stable and united
nation.

They are confident that all the policies formulated like the
Look East Policy and leadership by example and the Malaysia
Incorporated concepts will be successful, and we will always stand
solidly behind the Prime Minister, he said.

Mahathir and Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti
Hwere given a rousing send-off at the Sandakan airport this
morning after their 24-hour visit here.

Among those present at the airport were Sabah Chief Minister
Datuk Harris Salleh and his wife, Datin Rupiah.--Bernama