

D329

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MAHATHIR-DELEGATION

84 P
KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 21 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD ISSUED A DIRECTIVE TODAY THAT ALL OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF DELEGATIONS OVERSEAS, INCLUDING TRADE MISSIONS, MUST BE WELL-EQUIPPED WITH FACTS ABOUT MALAYSIA TO PROTECT THE NATION'S IMAGE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THEY SHOULD ARM THEMSELVES WITH AS MUCH KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE COUNTRY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THEY COULD PROVIDE ANSWERS WHEN ASKED BY THEIR CONTACTS.

THIS DIRECTIVE WAS DECIDED AT THE WEEKLY CABINET MEETING AT HIS OFFICE HERE.

+WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS OF INSTANCES OF MEMBERS OF MALAYSIAN DELEGATIONS UNABLE TO GIVE ANSWERS WHEN ASKED...I DON'T WANT THIS TO HAPPEN AGAIN BECAUSE IT WILL BRING SHAME TO THE COUNTRY,+ HE ADDED.

IN THIS CONNECTION, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS STUDYING WHETHER IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE COURSE OR SPECIAL BRIEFINGS FOR MEMBERS OF DELEGATIONS BEFORE THEY WENT ON THEIR TRIPS.--MORE

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HE STRESSED THE NEED FOR ALL OFFICIALS AND MEMBER OF MALAYSIAN MISSIONS TO KNOW AS MUCH OF THEIR COUNTRY AS POSSIBLE, THOUGH THIS WAS NOT PART OF THEIR JOB.

+WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE COUNTRY, THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO ANSWER, FOR EXAMPLE, ABOUT THE CONDITIONS FOR TRADE, GOVERNMENT POLICIES, IMPORT-EXPORT POLICIES AND FINANCING.

+NOT ONLY THAT, THEY MUST ALSO KNOW ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE, ESPECIALLY THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE, THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY AND THE SIZE OF THE POPULATION.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE CABINET ALSO DECIDED ON THE NEED FOR LOCAL COMPANIES THAT HAD OVERSEAS TRADE CONNECTIONS TO FULFILL THEIR PROMISES ON THE SUPPLY OF GOODS SO AS TO PROVIDE A GOOD PICTURE OF THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THEIR TRADING PARTNERS.

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+WE LIKE TO KNOW HOW WE CAN HAVE A PST OF CONTROL ON COMPANIES SELLING MALAYSIAN-MADE GOODS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THIS HAS BECAUSE THERE WERE COMPANIES THAT DID NOT MEET THEIR FLEDGES BY SUPPLYING GOODS THAT WERE SHODDY OR DID NOT MEET THE SPECIFICATIONS. -- BERNAMA

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