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MAHATHIR-MILLIONAIRE

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 24 (BERNAMA)

--- THE PRIME MINISTER TODAY CALLED ON BUMIPUTERAS TO DO AWAY WITH ENVYING OTHER BUMIPUTERAS WHO BECAME RICH AND INSTEAD UPGRADE THEIR CAPABILITIES TO EXPLOIT THE OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY (NEP).

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THEY SHOULD REMEMBER THAT NOT EVERYONE COULD BECOME RICH BUT ALL COULD TASTE SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IF THEY ENSURED THEIR BUSINESS STARTED IN A SMALL WAY DEVELOPED ONE STEP AT A TIME.

+ IF YOUR CAPITAL IS SMALL, START SMALL AND IF IT IS BIG, START A BIG BUSINESS AND UTILIZE WHATEVER SPECIAL ABILITIES YOU POSSESS. WE MUST STRENGTHEN OUR ENTERPRISE FIRST BEFORE WE CAN START ASPIRING TO BE RICH, + HE ADDED.

HE WAS OPENING THE WISMA JAYANITA OF THE WANITA UMNODERMAJAYA COOPERATIVE AT KAMPUNG BARU HERE. THE BUILDING, FORMERLY NAMED THE DEWAN SYARIFAH RODZIAH, WAS BOUGHT BY WANITA UMNO FOR \$5,000 TWO YEARS AGO AND RENOVATED AT A COST OF \$500,000.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REGRETTED THAT SOME MALAYS WANTED TO BECOME RICH SO DESPERATELY THEY EVEN RESORTED TO ACCUSING THE GOVERNMENT OF NOT HELPING THEM ACHIEVE THEIR AIM OF BECOMING MILLIONAIRES LIKE SOME OTHER BUMIPUTERAS.

+ I RECENTLY WITNESSED A CASE OF PEOPLE TRYING TO BECOME RICH ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT HAVE A SEN TO THEIR NAME. THEY FIGHT AND SQUABBLE WITH ONE ANOTHER TO ADVANCE THEIR ASPIRATION. THERE SEEMS TO BE NO OTHER THOUGHT IN THEIR HEAD BUT TO BECOME RICH, + HE SAID. --MORE

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IN THEIR OBSESSION, THESE BUMIPUTERAS DID NOT PAUSE TO THINK WHETHER THE FAULT LAY WITH THEM OR OTHERS OR WHETHER THEY HAD THE QUALITIES TO SUCCEED IF GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY.

HE REMINDED BUMIPUTERAS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROVIDED THEM MUCH OPPORTUNITIES AND ASSISTANCE AND MADE EFFORTS ON THEIR BEHALF SUCH AS GETTING FOREIGN INVESTORS TO INVEST IN JOINT VENTURES WITH THEM, WITH THE RESULT THAT SOME BUMIPUTERAS WON CONTRACTS WORTH MILLIONS OF RINGGIT.

THERE WERE SOME COMPANIES AWARDED MAMMOTH PROJECTS BUT UNFORTUNATELY, SOME MALAYS FOCUSED ON WHAT WAS NOT PROVIDED OR CREATED DISSATISFACTION OVER ALLEGED LACK OF GOVERNMENT HELP FOR BUMIPUTERAS.

+ WE CAN FURNISH A LIST OF THE OPPORTUNITIES AND ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO BUMIPUTERAS THOUGH THE PERFORMANCE HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTING WITH SOME BUMIPUTERAS FAILING TO FULFIL THE CONDITIONS IMPOSED AND ABANDONING PROJECTS HALF-WAY. +

HE ASSURED BUMIPUTERAS HOWEVER THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THEM WITH OPPORTUNITIES ON CONDITION THEY MADE EFFORTS TO UPGRADE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMIC SECTOR. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-MILLIONAIRE 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE CAUTIONED HOWEVER THAT THE EFFORTS WOULD NOT GUARANTEE ALL WOULD BECOME MILLIONAIRES FOR IT WAS A TRUTH OF LIFE THAT SUCCESS COULD NOT BE EQUAL FOR EVERYONE.

+THE RATE OF PROGRESS AMONG BUMIPUTERAS WILL NOT BE UNIFORM. THERE WILL BE SOME WHO WILL GET MORE AND ARE WISER IN EFFECTIVE USE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES AND THERE WILL BE OTHERS WHO WILL GET LESS OR NOTHING AT ALL.

+IT IS JUST LIKE IN WAR, THERE WILL BE THOSE WHO WILL DIE, THOSE WHO WILL BE INJURED AND THOSE WHO WILL SURVIVE AND RETURN VICTORIOUS.+

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, ALL PEOPLE WOULD BENEFIT FROM WHAT WAS ORIGINALLY PERCEIVED AS LACKING IN JUSTICE.

STRESSING THAT ONLY A HANDFUL OF BUMIPUTERAS COULD BECOME, MILLIONAIRES, HE SAID THAT WHAT SHOULD CONSTITUTE THE YARDSTICK TO MEASURE THE RESULTS WAS NOT CREATION OF MILLIONAIRES BUT REALIZATION OF SUCCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES FROM GOVERNMENT POLICIES. --MORE

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+FOR EXAMPLE, IF WE START, BY VENDING ICED WATER BY THE ROADSIDE, AND WE MOVE OUR BUSINESS TO A SHOP OR A HIGH-RISE MODERN BUILDING, AND OUR PROFIT RISES FROM 50 SEN TO THREE RINGGIT PER GLASS, THEN WE CAN BE SAID TO HAVE ACHIEVED A MEASURE OF SUCCESS.+

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT DESPITE THE INEQUALITIES IN THE ECONOMIC POSITION OF BUMIPUTERAS, THE FUTURE WOULD SEE THE PEOPLE ENJOYING MORE PROSPERITY AND SUCCESS, WITH THE CURRENT MINIMUM MONTHLY WAGE LEVEL OF \$300 IMPROVING TO \$700.

DATUK SERI DA MAHATHIR ALSO FELT THE PEOPLE WOULD IMPROVE THEIR ECONOMIC STANDING BY PARTICIPATING IN HOLDING COMPANIES SUCH AS THE KOOP DERMAJAYA WANITA AND NOT SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP COMPANIES.

THE CHAIRMAN OF JAYANITA, DATIN PADUKA AISHAH GHANI, WHO IS FORMER WANITA UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THE COOPERATIVE WHICH HAS 400,000 MEMBERS PLANNED TO SET UP A HOLDING COMPANY.

IT ALSO INTENDED TO SET UP A 15-STOREY COMMERCIAL COMPLEX IN JALAN CHOW KIT HERE WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (UDA).

FOLLOWING THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH AND OTHER GUESTS ATTENDED A BRIEFING AND AN AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATION OF THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT THE \$500 MILLION NEW UMNO HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX.

--BERNAMA