

MAHATHIR R'R'R'
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PETALING JAYA, MARCH 26 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY ADVISED ENTREPRENEURS TO REFRAIN FROM ESTABLISHING TOO MANY COMPANIES IN EXISTING FIELDS OF BUSINESS OR SERVICES TO AVOID LOSSES RESULTING FROM A DIVISION OF THE PARTICULAR MARKET.

HE SUGGESTED THAT EXISTING COMPANIES OFFER SHARES TO COMPANIES GENUINELY INTERESTED IN INVESTING IN THE PARTICULAR FIELD OF BUSINESS OR SERVICES.

IN THIS WAY, THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO AVOID COMPETITION AMONGST THEMSELVES IN TRYING TO GET CUSTOMERS AND EXPAND THE EXISTING COMPANIES, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS OPENING A COMPANY -- RIMMAN INTERNATIONAL SDN BHD -- WHICH UTILISES COMPUTERS FOR SPECIALISED APPLICATION SUCH AS AUTOMATED MAPPING AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT, HERE. -- MORE
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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT WITH A BIGGER CAPITAL AND POOLED EXPERTISE, THE COMPANIES COULD EXPAND THEIR BUSINESS OR SERVICE TO OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.

HE ADVISED BUMIPUTERA COMPANIES TO UPGRADE THEIR EFFICIENCY AND CAPABILITY AND NOT DEPEND SOLELY ON GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

+THE SUCCESS OF A COMPANY DEPENDS ON ITS EFFICIENCY AND ABILITY AND NOT ON ITS BUMIPUTERA STATUS. GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING FOREVER,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THE SUCCESS OF A COMPANY WAS MEASURED BY NOT JUST THE GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS SECURED BUT ALSO ITS INTERACTION WITH THE REST OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY WHETHER IN THE COUNTRY OR ABROAD.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE SETTING UP OF COMPANIES UTILISING HIGH TECHNOLOGY IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNICATION, SUCH AS RIMMAN INTERNATIONAL. -- MORE
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+I BELIEVE THERE ARE MORE BUMIPUTERA SYSTEMS AND COMPANIES INTENDING TO SET UP COMPANIES SUCH AS THIS,+ HE SAID BUT ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT SHOULD THERE BE TOO MANY OF THEM AND ALL DEPENDED SOLELY ON GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, THE MARKET WOULD BE SMALLER AND EVERYONE WOULD STAND TO LOSE.

RIMMAN INTERNATIONAL IS A SUBSIDIARY OF KUMPULAN AKZ SDN BHD ESTABLISHED TO FACILITATE ANOTHER SUBSIDIARY, BINA FON TELECOMMUNICATIONS SDN BHD, IN CARRYING OUT INSTALLATION OF TELEPHONE CABLES UNDER A TELECOMS DEPARTMENT PROJECT.

THE CONTRACT TO INSTAL TELEPHONE CABLES IS ALSO GIVEN TO THREE OTHER BUMIPUTERA COMPANIES.

THIS IS TO EASE THE DEPARTMENT'S CABLE INSTALLATION WORKLOAD.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HOPED THESE FOUR COMPANIES WOULD STRIVE TO IMPROVE THEIR EFFICIENCY AND CAPABILITY TO REDUCE DEPENDENCY ON THE GOVERNMENT. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE TOOK AN INTEREST IN COMPANIES THAT USED COMPUTERS IN COMMUNICATION BECAUSE IT COULD HELP EXPEDITE MODERNISATION OF THE NATION'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM.

HE SAID THIS WAS THE AGE OF INFORMATION EXPLOSION CHARACTERISED BY DISSEMINATION OF A HUGE VOLUME OF INFORMATION. AN EFFICIENT COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WAS NEEDED TO HANDLE IT.

THIS WAS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT FOR A DEVELOPING COUNTRY SUCH AS MALAYSIA WHERE AN EFFICIENT COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM COULD EXPEDITE COMMERCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THIS WAS WHY THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO EXPEND MILLIONS OF RINGGIT TO PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM BUT IT WAS SAD TO SEE SYSTEMS QUICKLY BECOMING OBSOLETE OWING TO WHAT HE REFERRED AS BUSINESS TACTICS.

THE PRIME MINISTER ADVISED COMPANIES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, PARTICULARLY THOSE ENGAGED IN THE FIELD OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TO REFRAIN FROM PINCHING STAFF FROM ONE ANOTHER AND FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WHICH HE SAID BADLY NEEDED THE SERVICES OF MANPOWER SUCH AS ENGINEERS. -- BERNAMA

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