

B E354 AAE
ASEAN-ECONOMY R'R'R' 85

(8)

KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 8 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED ON ENTREPRENEURS AND TRADERS EYEING THE +VAST+ CHINA MARKET NOT TO MISS OR DISMISS THE REALITY THAT IS BEFORE THEIR VERY EYES: THE ASEAN MARKET.

+ STATISTICS TELL US WHAT OUR DEFLECTED IMAGINATIONS FAIL TO GRASP: THAT THE ASEAN MARKET IS FOUR TIMES THE SIZE OF THE CHINA MARKET. THAT THE ASEAN MARKET IS AT OUR VERY DOOR-STEP, NOT IN A FAR-AWAY LAND WHOSE BUSINESS PRACTICES AND SYSTEMS ARE UNCERTAIN AND IN SOME AREAS STILL AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY,+ HE SAID.

OPENING THE 18TH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING AT THE SHANGRI-LA HOTEL HERE, HE SAID:

+ WE NOW SEE SOME OF OUR INVESTORS EYEING CHINA AS AN ATTRACTIVE PLACE FOR THEIR INVESTMENT WHEN VAST OPPORTUNITIES EXIST IN ASEAN IN EVERY AREA OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY.+

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS TIME FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVED DEARLY IN ASEAN, WHO SAW VAST POTENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION + TO STOP BEING MERELY DREAMERS AND TO BE DOERS.+

+IT IS TIME FOR US WHO RECOGNISE THE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES TO STOP WAITING AND TO START MOVING,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE
1127MST 08 07 85

ASEAN - ECONOMY 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT NO DOUBT THERE WERE VARIOUS OBSTACLES TO GREATER ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH ASEAN.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT IN ALL WORTHWHILE HUMAN ENDEAVOUR THERE WERE BOUND TO BE SERIOUS OBSTACLES.

THE ASEAN ECONOMIES, TO BE SURE, WERE GENERALLY COMPETITIVE RATHER THAN COMPLEMENTARY.

+BUT CAN WE NOT SEEK THE MANY AREAS OF COMPLEMENTARITY AND EXPLOIT THEM TO OUR MUTUAL ADVANTAGE?

+ IS IT NOT TIME FOR OUR PRIVATE SECTOR TO KNOW AS MUCH ABOUT THE MARKETS OF EACH OF THE ASEAN STATES AS WE KNOW ABOUT THE MARKETS OF JAPAN, OF EUROPE AND OF THE UNITED STATES?+ -- MORE

1133MST 08 07 85

ASEAN-ECONOMY 3 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT ASEAN HAD BEEN A RESOUNDING SUCCESS AND EVEN IF IT HAD MADE LITTLE HEADWAY IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ASEAN WOULD CONTINUE TO REMAIN A VITAL INSTITUTION.

+IF ASEAN DID NOT EXIST, WE WOULD HAVE TO INVENT IT,+ HE SAID.

+BUT THIS YEAR AS IN YEARS PAST WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY, INDEED AN OBLIGATION, TO ALL OUR PEOPLES NOT ONLY TO CONSOLIDATE ASEAN BUT ALSO TO STRIVE TO BREAK NEW GROUND, TO TAKE EACH NEW CHALLENGE AND TO TURN IT INTO A NEW OPPORTUNITY.+

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT MIGHT BE ARGUED THAT IN THE MORE UNCERTAIN ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE DAYS AHEAD, THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE ASEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION TO NEW FRONTIERS WOULD BE COMPLICATED.

IF ANYTHING, NOW WAS NOT THE OPPORTUNE TIME.

HE SAID THAT WHILE THERE COULD BE SOME VERACITY IN THIS, THE QUESTION THAT SHOULD BE ASKED WAS:HOW OFTEN IN THE LIFE OF AN ORGANISATION, AS IN THE LIFE OF MAN, DOES THE +MOST OPPORTUNE+ TIME COME? -- MORE

1142MST 08 07 85

B E359 AAE

ASEAN-ECONOMY 4 KUALA LUMPUR

+ WHEN IN THE LIFE OF ASEAN WILL THE MOST OPPORTUNE TIME FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION ARRIVE? DO WE MERELY SIT AND WAIT? OR DO WE MOVE TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS AND TO MOULD THE EVENTS THAT WILL ALLOW US TO ACHIEVE THE BREAKTHROUGH WE MUST HAVE WITH REGARD TO ECONOMIC COOPERATION?+

HE SAID THAT THE OPPORTUNE TIME, LIKE GOOD LUCK, MIGHT HAPPEN BY CHANCE BUT IT MORE OFTEN CAME BY +THE SWEAT OF OUR BROWS AND THE COURAGE OF OUR CONVICTIONS, BY HUMAN EFFORT ALLIED TO HUMAN DETERMINATION.+ -- BERNAMA

1149MST 08 07 85

0723