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MAHATHIR-EON
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(P)

car project

SHAH ALAM, SEPT 1 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD LAUNCHED THE SALE OF THE PROTON SAGA ON A GRAND SCALE TODAY SAYING THAT THE MAKING OF THE CAR HAS RESTORED MALAYSIA'S DIGNITY IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD.

+THE PROTON SAGA IS A SYMBOL THAT WE ARE A DIGNIFIED PEOPLE, PEOPLE WHO ARE PREPARED TO FACE CHALLENGES AND PEOPLE WHO WILL PICK THEMSELVES UP WHEN THEY FALL AND OVERCOME WHATEVER OBSTACLES AND SUCCEED,+ THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED.

ADDRESSING ABOUT 4,000 PEOPLE AT THE EDARAN OTOMOBIL NASIONAL (EON) HEADQUARTERS HERE WHICH HE ALSO OPENED, HE SAID THE MAKING OF THE PROTON SAGA WAS A STEP TOWARDS UPHOLDING THE NATION'S DIGNITY FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY.

HE URGED THE PEOPLE NOT TO BELITTLE OR FRUSTRATE THE EFFORTS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD INITIATED TO PLACE MALAYSIA ON AN EQUAL STANDING WITH OTHER RAPIDLY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

+RATHER, BE PROUD, BE PROUD OF OUR ABILITY AND BE PROUD OF THE START THAT WE HAVE MADE.+ -- MORE
1643MST 01 09 85

MAHATHIR-EON 2 SHAH ALAM

+IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL WE WILL NOT ONLY BE RESPECTED BUT WILL ALSO PROFIT FROM IT.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, IF WE FAIL, NOT ONLY WILL WE SUFFER A LOSS BUT THE WORLD WILL LAUGH AT US. THOSE MALAYSIANS WHO WORK TO FRUSTRATE THESE EFFORTS OF OURS WILL ALSO BE LAUGHED AT BY THE WORLD,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS HAPPY BECAUSE THE MAKING AND SALE OF THE PROTON SAGA HAD SHOWN THE +PROFESSIONAL CRITICS+ THAT THE PLANS FOR THE PROJECT MADE SEVERAL YEARS AGO WERE NO +ANGAN-ANGAN MAT JENIN+ (PIPE-DREAMS).

HE RECOUNTED HOW THESE CRITICS, THROUGH PRESS STATEMENTS, HAD GIVEN UNFAVOURABLE VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF THE BIG INDUSTRIES THROUGH THE HEAVY INDUSTRIES CORPORATION OF MALAYSIA (HICOM).

HE FELT THAT THESE PEOPLE HAD OVERSTEPPED THEIR BOUNDS BECAUSE WITHOUT THEIR REALISING IT SEVERAL HEAVY INDUSTRIES HAD EMERGED IN THE COUNTRY AND ACHIEVED SUCCESS. -- MORE
1708MST 01 09 85

MAHATHIR-EON 3 SHAH ALAM

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES IN THE COUNTRY WOULD BRING ABOUT FRINGE BENEFITS AND LINKAGES TO THE DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

HEAVY INDUSTRIES WOULD NOT ONLY ENABLE MORE LOCAL RESOURCES TO BE USED BUT WOULD ALSO SAVE ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

+IF THESE CAPITAL-INTENSIVE GOODS ARE NOT PRODUCED HERE WE WILL HAVE TO IMPORT THEM. THE INDUSTRIALISATION PROCESS WILL NOT BE COMPLETE UNTIL WE HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO HANDLE THE HEAVY INDUSTRIES.+

HE ADDED THAT THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR THE HEAVY INDUSTRIES SECTOR WAS WIDE AND WOULD ENABLE THE METAL AND ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES TO SET UP A BASE TO DEVELOP HOME-GROWN TECHNOLOGY.

HICOM, HE SAID, HAD NOT ONLY PROVIDED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES BUT WAS ALSO A PLACE FOR LOCAL ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS TO PUT THEIR SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO USE AND TO EXPERIMENT WITH NEW IDEAS.
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MAHATHIR-EON 4 SHAH ALAM

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS CONFIDENT THAT HEAVY INDUSTRIES WOULD PROVIDE MORE CHALLENGES TO LOCAL ENGINEERS, SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS AND ENABLE MORE SUPERIOR TECHNOLOGY IN CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING TO BE ACQUIRED.

HE WAS ALSO HAPPY THAT THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES MORE TECHNICAL OFFICERS WOULD GET AN OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD HIGH MANAGEMENT POSTS IN HEAVY INDUSTRIES COMPANIES.

FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH, HE SAID, HEAVY INDUSTRIES WERE NOT CONCENTRATED ONLY IN THE DEVELOPED STATES BUT WERE ALSO LOCATED IN THE LESS DEVELOPED ONES.

CEMENT AND PAPER AND PULP FACTORIES, STEELWORKS, PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEXES AND OTHER FACTORIES HAD BEEN SET UP IN THE LESS DEVELOPED STATES TO HELP NARROW THE REVENUE GAP AMONG THEM, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S INDUSTRIALISATION EFFORTS WERE PLANNED AND STUDIED +OVER AND OVER AGAIN+ IN DETAIL TO AVOID ANY MISTAKE BUT +WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THERE IS NO INDUSTRY ANYWHERE WITHOUT ITS MISTAKES.+ -- MORE
1738MST 01 09 85

MAHATHIR-EON 5 SHAH ALAM

ON EON, HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE COMPANY WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET ALL BOOKINGS FOR THE CAR EFFICIENTLY AND SPEEDILY AND PROVIDE GOOD BACK-UP SERVICES.

ON THE PRICE OF THE CAR, HE SAID IT WAS REASONABLE AND COMPETITIVE NOT BECAUSE THE CAR WAS OF LOW QUALITY BUT BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT WANTED TO SEE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE OWN MALAYSIA'S OWN CAR.

HE CONGRATULATED HICOM, EON AND PROTON FOR PRODUCING A CAR OF HIGH QUALITY ON PAR WITH THAT OF OTHER MAKES.

HE WAS ALSO CONFIDENT THAT THE EMPLOYEES OF THE THREE COMPANIES WOULD CONTINUE TO SERVE WITH PRIDE AND HUMILITY IN PRODUCING A NATIONAL CAR OF UNQUESTIONABLE QUALITY. -- BERNAMA
1752MST 01 09 85