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MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 16 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD)  
TODAY LAUNCHED THE FIRST MADE-IN-MALAYSIA COMPUTER, THE ACCENT 2001,  
WITH THE HOPE THAT IT WILL SIGNAL THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW BREED OF  
MALAYSIAN ENTREPRENEURS IN THE FIELD OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY.

THERE WERE THOSE WHO DARED TO VENTURE INTO AND EMERGED  
SUCCESSFUL FROM AREAS WHERE EVEN +ANGELS DARE NOT TREAD,+ THE PRIME  
MINISTER SAID WHEN LAUNCHING THE PERSONAL COMPUTER AT THE PUTRA  
WORLD TRADE CENTRE HERE.

THE ACCENT 2001 IS MANUFACTURED BY ACCENT TECHNOLOGY SDN BHD AND  
DISTRIBUTED BY KOMPUSAT SDN BHD.

BOTH COMPANIES ARE SUBSIDIARIES OF MELEWAR CORPORATION, WHICH  
PURCHASED THE TECHNOLOGY, MANUFACTURING RIGHTS, COMPUTERS AND  
COMPONENT PARTS FROM ACCENT TECHNOLOGY INC OF THE US.

DESCRIBING THE MOVE BY THE COMPANY +AS A GOOD THING+, DATUK SERI  
DR MAHATHIR HOPED THAT OTHERS WOULD FOLLOW SUIT EITHER IN A SIMILAR  
MANNER OR IN OTHER ENTERPRISES WHICH HAD NOT BEEN PIONEERED IN THE  
COUNTRY. -- MORE

#### MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT MALAYSIANS COULD BE AS SUCCESSFUL AS  
OTHERS IF THEY PUT THEIR HEART AND MIND INTO WHAT THEY DID.

ON THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID  
MALAYSIANS SEEMED TO THINK THAT IT WAS THE DUTY OF THOSE WHO  
POSSESSED TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE THE TRANSFER WHILE THEY SAT BACK, DOING  
NOTHING.

+THIS IS NOT THE CASE AND WILL NEVER BE,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO HIT OUT AT THOSE WHO WERE TOO  
SELFISH TO SHARE THEIR TECHNOLOGIES WITH OTHERS.

IN THE FIELD OF MEDICINE, HE NOTED, PEOPLE IN THE WEST WERE MORE  
WILLING TO TRANSFER THEIR TECHNOLOGIES TO OTHERS THAN +WE HERE IN  
THIS COUNTRY.+

HE SAID THE GENERAL FEELING AMONG MALAYSIANS PERTAINING TO THIS  
WAS AKIN TO THE BOMOH WHO KNEW OF A CURE FOR A CERTAIN SICKNESS BUT  
DID NOT WANT TO TELL ANYBODY ABOUT IT.

+EVEN IF HE DOES TELL, IT IS ONLY TO HIS SON AND PROVIDED THE  
SON BEHAVES AND THERE ARE LOTS OF CONDITIONS ATTACHED AS WELL. VERY  
OFTEN, THE BOMOH DIES WITHOUT TRANSFERRING THE TECHNOLOGY.+ -- MORE

#### MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

TECHNOLOGIES BY THEMSELVES WERE OF NO HELP, HE SAID, UNLESS THEY  
WERE DISTRIBUTED AND +WE SHOULD NOT BE TOO JEALOUS ABOUT IT.+

MALAYSIA, FOR EXAMPLE, JEALOUSLY GUARDED ITS TECHNOLOGIES,  
ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELDS OF RUBBER AND PALM OIL, AS TRANSFERRING  
THEM MIGHT ENABLE OTHERS +TO MAKE USE OF THE TECHNOLOGY TO BEAT US IN  
THE SAME FIELD.+

+YET, WE AGREE TO MAKE THE TRANSFER AND EXPECT OTHERS TO DO THE  
SAME,+ HE SAID, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT EXPECT OTHER COUNTRIES TO  
TRANSFER THEIR TECHNOLOGIES 100 PERCENT.

IN THIS RESPECT, HE SAID THOSE IN NEED OF THE TECHNOLOGY HAD TO  
SEARCH FOR THEMSELVES THE PART OF THE TECHNOLOGY THAT WAS NOT GIVEN.

MELEWAR GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR TUNKU ISKANDAR WAS CONFIDENT  
THAT THE ACCENT 2001 WOULD MEET THE HIGH STANDARDS REQUIRED OF SUCH  
PRODUCTS AND CALLED ON THE PUBLIC TO DISCARD ANY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE  
THEY HAD TOWARD LOCALLY-MADE GOODS. -- MORE

MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THE COMPANY'S PLANT AT KAMPUNG PANDAN WAS ASSEMBLING ABOUT 100 UNITS OF THE COMPUTER A MONTH AT PRESENT, WITH THE FIGURE TO RISE TO 5,000 A YEAR BY NEXT YEAR.

THE PRESENT LOCAL CONTENT OF 40 PERCENT WOULD BE INCREASED TO 60 PERCENT NEXT YEAR.

THIRTY PERCENT OF PRODUCTION IS FOR THE DOMESTIC MARKET AND THE REST FOR EXPORT. -- BERNAMA

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