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MAHATHIR-COMMITTEE  
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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 18 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP A COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY AND IDENTIFY THE REASONS WHY ITS OBJECTIVES HAD NOT BEEN ACHIEVED AND PROPOSE THE EFFORTS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THEM.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE COMMITTEE COMPRISING FIVE MINISTERS AND 10 BUSINESSMEN AND GOVERNMENT OFFICERS WOULD BE HEADED BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHAFAR BABA.

IT WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF ALL QUARTERS INCLUDING CRITICS OF VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE NEP INCLUDING ITS IMPLEMENTATION WHICH THEY CLAIMED HAD GONE ASTRAY; HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THAT IN DISCUSSING WHETHER THE NEP SHOULD BE CONTINUED, THE ESSENTIAL CONSIDERATION WAS WHETHER ITS OBJECTIVES HAD BEEN MET AND NOT THE TIME FRAME FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

HE SAID THAT IF BY 1990 THE NEP'S OBJECTIVES HAD NOT BEEN ACHIEVED, THE QUESTION OF ITS DURATION WAS NOT IMPORTANT. WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS WHETHER THE TARGETTED 30 PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH TO THE BUMIPUTERAS HAD BEEN MET. -- MORE  
1752MST 18 09 86

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MAHATHIR-COMMITTEE 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE 30 PERCENT BUMIPUTERA PARTICIPATION LEVEL WAS STILL VERY LOW WHEN COMPARED WITH THE BUMIPUTERA PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION.

HE ASSURED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT SEIZE THE RIGHTS OF THE OTHER RACES MERELY TO FULFIL NEP REQUIREMENTS ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH.

AS HAD BEEN CLARIFIED IN THE PAST, DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH UNDER THE NEP WAS BASED ON NATIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH AND IF THERE WAS NO GROWTH, THIS COULD NOT BE DONE.

SINCE THERE WAS NOW NO GROWTH, AND SINCE THIS SITUATION HAD NOT BEEN ANTICIPATED, THERE SHOULD BE FLEXIBILITY IN THE MATTER OF THE NEP'S CONTINUATION BECAUSE THE ESSENTIAL ISSUE WAS THAT ITS OBJECTIVES BE ACHIEVED, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT FOR THE TIME BEING, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONCENTRATE ON STIMULATING NATIONAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RATHER THAN THE QUESTION OF DISTRIBUTION. -- BERNAMA  
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