

D257

B E468 AAE
MAHATHIR-PRODUCTIVITY

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 3 (BERNAMA) ---⁸⁶DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY MALAYSIANS HAVE TO FACE ~~THE~~ REALITY THAT THE COUNTRY HAS LOST THE EDGE IN THE COMMODITY TRADE AND ACCEPT THE +TEMPORARY DISCOMFORT+ AS THE COUNTRY ADJUST TO THE SITUATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID EVERY CITIZEN HAD TO MAKE THE ADJUSTMENT AND STRIVE FOR HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY IN ORDER TO SURVIVE AND ACCEPT THE DISCOMFORT OF A +DELIBERATE CHANGE+ RATHER THAN SUFFER THE PAIN OF A +FORCED CHANGE+.

+IF WE APPRECIATE THIS, THEN THERE IS A FAIR CHANCE OF SUCCESS AND A BETTER FUTURE,+ HE SAID IN HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY CONFERENCE AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE HERE.

+WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING WHEN IT CHANGED ITS PLANS AND PRESENTED ITS LATEST BUDGET, IS TO JOLT THE PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR MOULDS. WE HAVE TO CHANGE OR WE WILL DETERIORATE,+ HE ADDED.

ABOUT 20 COUNTRIES FROM ASIA AND EUROPE INCLUDING INDIA, PAKISTAN, HONG KONG, MALAYSIA, FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM ARE REPRESENTED AT THE FOUR-DAY CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY THE ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANISATION (APO) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE. -- MORE

1222MST 03 11 86

D265

B E470 AAE
MAHATHIR-PRODUCTIVITY 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID WITH MALAYSIA HAVING NO CHOICE BUT TO MOVE INTO AND DEPEND ON NEW AREAS LIKE MANUFACTURING, ATTAINING HIGH PRODUCTIVITY WAS EVEN MORE CRUCIAL.

AS A MOVE TOWARDS HIGHER NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT WAS CUTTING RED-TAPE, PRIVATISING ITS AGENCIES, IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE, AND ALLOCATING FUNDS TO PRIORITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES THAT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE EXPANSION OF THE ECONOMY.

HE SAID THE PRIVATE SECTOR, BUSINESSMEN, TRADE UNIONS, PROFESSIONAL BODIES SHOULD ALL BE THINKING OF PRODUCTIVITY.

+EACH SHOULD EXAMINE ITSELF AS MUCH AS IT EXAMINES CRITICALLY THE ROLE OF OTHERS IN IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID PRODUCTIVITY WOULD NOT IMPROVE IF PROFESSIONALS, +WHO OFTEN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE RELUCTANT TO COME OUT OF THEIR AIRCONDITIONED ROOMS+, CONTINUED RELYING ON WRITING NOTE-PAPERS. -- MORE

1258MST 03 11 86

D268

B E471 AAE
MAHATHIR-PRODUCTIVITY 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID MOST MANAGERS ALSO WERE QUITE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE SHOPFLOOR, THE MINES AND THE ESTATES AS THEY TOO DEALT IN PAPERS AND REPORTS AND EXPECTED THINGS TO BE DONE BY WRITING NOTES.

ON THE WORKERS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +THE TRAGEDY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS THAT WHILE THEIR ECONOMY IS COMPARABLE TO THE ECONOMIES OF EUROPE OF PERHAPS THE 17TH OR 18TH CENTURY THEIR EXPECTATIONS AND ETHICS ARE THOSE OF EUROPE NOW.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID WORKERS MUST HAVE THEIR RIGHTS BUT THESE MUST BE WHAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES COULD AFFORD.

HE SAID WORKERS' RIGHTS MUST BE FOLLOWED BY CONTRIBUTION TO PRODUCTIVITY AND IF WHAT WAS PRODUCED COULD NOT COMPETE IN THE MARKET, THE END-RESULT MUST BE A LOSS OF JOBS.

+RIGHTS ARE MEANINGLESS WITHOUT JOBS,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE
1303MST 03 11 86

D282

B E475 AAE
MAHATHIR-PRODUCTIVITY 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO TOUCHED ON FREE TRADE AND COMPETITION WHICH HE SAID WAS IMPORTANT FOR PRODUCTIVITY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO BE WORTH ACHIEVING (IN ORDER TO SELL THEIR MANUFACTURED GOODS).

HE SAID IF PRODUCTIVITY OF SMALL COUNTRIES WAS NEGATED BY QUOTAS, PROTECTIONISM AND SUBSIDIES THEY SHOULD NOT DESPAIR BUT MUST BE MORE EFFICIENT AND MORE HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE THAN EVER.

THAT WAS WHY, HE SAID, MALAYSIA CONTINUED TO STRIVE FOR GREATER PRODUCTIVITY WHICH, APART FROM OTHER EFFORTS TAKEN, REMAINED A KEY FACTOR IN THE COUNTRY'S STRATEGY.

HE SAID AS PRODUCTIVITY DID NOT MEAN MERE HARD WORK AND LONGER HOURS BUT LOWER UNIT COST, MORE FUNDS SHOULD BE CHANNELLED FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN ALL SECTORS.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, IN LINE WITH THE THEME OF THE CONFERENCE +PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH PEOPLE IN THE AGE OF CHANGING TECHNOLOGY+, AND THE ACQUIREMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY ALSO CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA
1331MST 03 11 86