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FMP-MAHATHIR (UNEMPLOYMENT) R'R'R'

86
KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 21, (BERNAMA) -- THE LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT WILL INCREASE, GIVEN THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE TOLD THE DEWAN RAKYAT THAT CURRENT ESTIMATES INDICATED THAT ABOUT 684,200 PEOPLE (10.1 PERCENT) WOULD BE UNEMPLOYED IN 1990 COMPARED WITH 448,600 (7.6 PERCENT) LAST YEAR.

THE MAJORITY OF THE UNEMPLOYED WERE EXPECTED TO BE NEW ENTRANTS INTO THE LABOUR FORCE WITHOUT WORK-RELATED SKILLS, HE ADDED WHEN TABLING THE FIFTH MALAYSIA PLAN.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND CONTINUE TO MONITOR CLOSELY LABOUR MARKET TRENDS.

THESE MEASURES, HE SAID, INCLUDED THE CONSTRUCTION OF 80,000 LOW-COST HOUSING UNITS ANNUALLY, CONVERTING MINING LAND FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES, CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS AND MINOR WORKS WHICH WERE LABOUR-INTENSIVE, PRIVATISATION OF SELECTED ACTIVITIES, AND TRAINING AND RE-TRAINING THE UNEMPLOYED IN MARKETABLE TRADES.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO TAKE STEPS TO PROVIDE UNEMPLOYED GRADUATES WITH TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT BY ATTACHING THEM TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OR PROJECTS AT A NOMINAL WAGE AND AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDED WITH JOB-RELATED SKILLS. -- MORE
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID GREATER ATTENTION WOULD HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO THE TRAINING OF LABOUR IN SKILLS REQUIRED BY THE COUNTRY.

HE HOPED INDUSTRIALISTS AND EDUCATIONISTS IN UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WOULD FORMULATE STRATEGIES AND POLICIES TO INCREASE THE RELEVANCE AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES.

SAYING THAT EDUCATIONAL POLICIES WOULD DE-EMPHASISE THE +PAPER CHASE SYNDROME+, HE ADDED THAT THE MODERNISATION OF INDUSTRY AND THE UTILISATION OF MORE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY WOULD REQUIRE THE RIGHT TYPE OF TRAINED TECHNICAL PERSONNEL.

+ALL THESE EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT WILL, HOWEVER, NOT BE SUCCESSFUL IF SUPPORT FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE PEOPLE ARE NOT FORTHCOMING,+ HE STRESSED. -- MORE
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AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, THE WORK FORCE MUST CHANGE THEIR PREJUDICED ATTITUDE WHICH PREVENTED THE LOCAL UNEMPLOYED FROM SWITCHING JOBS. +THEY MUST NOT BE CHOOSY ABOUT JOBS AND MUST BE READY TO TAKE LOWER PAYING JOBS.+

HE SAID JOB-SEEKERS MUST BE PREPARED TO TAKE RISKS AND BE WILLING TO MOVE TO WHERE THE JOBS WERE AND NOT EXPECT THE JOBS TO COME TO THEM.

+THEREFORE, THE PREFERENCE OF JOB-SEEKERS FOR WHITE-COLLAR JOBS WILL HAVE TO CHANGE, IN LINE WITH THE ECONOMY'S GREATER REQUIREMENTS FOR SKILLED WORKERS,+ HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, JOB-SEEKERS WOULD HAVE TO BE MORE SELF-RELIANT, MOTIVATED, AND COMPETITIVE AND SHOULD NOT DEMAND WAGES WHICH WERE INCONSISTENT WITH THEIR LEVEL OF PRODUCTIVITY.

HE SAID PREMATURE DEMANDS AND AGITATIONS BY WORKERS WOULD ALSO LEAD TO THE FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES TO IMPROVE THE WELLBEING OF THE PEOPLE.

+THEY SHOULD CULTIVATE THE PIONEERING AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT AND SEEK SELF-EMPLOYMENT. SELF-EMPLOYMENT BREEDS BUSINESS ACUMEN, ENTREPRENEURIAL AND ACHIEVEMENT-ORIENTED ATTITUDES, AND A COMPETITIVE SPIRIT WHILE ON THE JOB,+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA
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