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MAHATHIR-ATTITUDE  
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IPOH, MARCH 14 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT THAT MALAYSIA IS CAPABLE OF BUILDING SUBMARINES AND AEROPLANES IF IT WISHED TO DO SO.

THE ONLY OBSTACLES TO SUCH PROJECTS WERE THE HIGH COSTS AND LIMITED PRODUCTION WHICH WOULD BE UNECONOMICAL, HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER HOSTED BY THE GOPENG UMNO DIVISION, THE PRIME MINISTER HIT OUT AT CERTAIN INTELLECTUALS WHO SCOFFED AT THE GOVERNMENT WHEN IT SAID THAT IT HAD THE CAPABILITY TO PRODUCE SUBMARINES.

+ACCORDING TO THEM IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO PRODUCE SUBMARINES OR AEROPLANES,+ HE SAID.

+SUCH AN ATTITUDE ONLY UNDERMINES ONE'S OWN CAPABILITIES,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

+WE ALSO CAN MAKE AEROPLANES. NOT PLANES SUCH AS BOEING. BUT THEY WILL BE AEROPLANES. PLANES WHICH CAN FLY,+ HE SAID IN A LIGHTER VEIN. -- MORE  
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MAHATHIR-ATTITUDE 2 IPOH

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WANTED THE PEOPLE TO RID THEMSELVES OF THE FEELING OF NOT BELIEVING IN THEIR OWN ABILITIES AND THINKING THAT ONLY FOREIGNERS COULD UNDERTAKE BIG PROJECTS.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO REFERRED TO THE NATIONAL CAR -- PROTON SAGA -- WHICH WAS BELITTLED IN THE PAST BUT WAS NOW ENJOYING WIDE ACCLAIM BECAUSE IT WAS ON PAR WITH THAT PRODUCED BY OTHER COUNTRIES.

DISCIPLINE, HARDWORK AND PERSISTENCE WERE THE STEPS TOWARDS ACHIEVING SUCCESS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO STRESSED THE NEED FOR MODERATION AND TOLERANCE TO ENSURE THE STABILITY OF THE NATION.

ONLY MODERATION WOULD ENSURE STABILITY IN THE COUNTRY'S MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER URGED THE PEOPLE TO BE THANKFUL AS THE COUNTRY WAS FREE OF THREATS AND CALAMITIES.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE FUNCTION WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH AND PERAK MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI RAMLI NGAH TALIB.--  
BERNAMA

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