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U E297 AAE

MAHATHIR-INDUSTRIES

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 30 (BERNAMA)

-- THE GOVERNMENT WILL SET UP MORE INDUSTRIES TO GIVE THE PEOPLE JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND UPGRADE THEIR SKILLS SO THAT THE COUNTRY CAN MANUFACTURE GOODS FOR MARKETING TO THE REST OF THE WORLD, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID TODAY.

+IF IN THE PAST WE DEPENDED ON RUBBER, TIN, PALM OIL AND OTHER COMMODITIES, WE WILL IN THE COMING YEARS OFFER MANUFACTURED GOODS ON PAR WITH THOSE PRODUCED BY OTHER COUNTRIES,+ HE TOLD A MAMMOTH CROWD AT TAMAN SERI KERAMAT HERE.

ABOUT 60,000 PEOPLE FROM THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES HAD TURNED UP FOR THE OPENING OF THE +SERI KERAMAT+ MULTIPURPOSE HALL BY THE PRIME MINISTER.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PRESSURE FROM CERTAIN QUARTERS HAD DEPRESSED PRICES OF VARIOUS RAW MATERIALS OF WHICH MALAYSIA WAS THE LEADING PRODUCER TO UNREALISTIC LEVELS

+WE CAN GRUMBLE AND GET ANGRY AT OTHER PEOPLE BUT WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS FOR US TO RENEW OUR RESOLVE TO BEGIN AGAIN TO DEVELOP THE COUNTRY BY GOING INTO INDUSTRIALISATION,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE
1312MST 30 03 86

U E298 AAE

MAHATHIR-INDUSTRIES 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ACCORDING TO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, IN EMBARKING ON THIS EFFORT, THE PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THEIR OWN CAPABILITIES.

IN TRUTH, THE PEOPLE HAD THE CAPABILITY, AS PROVEN BY THE COUNTRY'S SUCCESS IN PRODUCING THE +PROTON SAGA+, MALAYSIA'S VERY OWN CAR.

WHEN THE IDEA OF HAVING A NATIONAL CAR WAS MOOTED, +MANY PEOPLE LAUGHED BUT TODAY WE FIND THAT THOSE WHO HAD SCOFFED AT THE IDEA WERE NOW TAKING OUR CAR HERE AND THERE,+ SAID THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO WAS INTERRUPTED SEVERAL TIMES BY SHOUTS OF +HIDUP MAHATHIR+, +HIDUP MALAYSIA+ AND +MERDEKA+ (LONG LIVE MAHATHIR, LONG LIVE MALAYSIA, INDEPENDENCE) BY THE CROWD.

HE SAID THE PROTON SAGA HAD A MARKET NOT ONLY IN THIS COUNTRY BUT ALSO INTERNATIONALLY WITH MORE THAN 20 COUNTRIES HAVING EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BUYING THE CAR.

+THIS MEANS MALAYSIA'S PRODUCT CAN BE ACCEPTED BY THE WHOLE WORLD IF WE HAVE THE CONFIDENCE IN MANUFACTURING IT,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

1325MST 30 03 86

U E309 AAE

MAHATHIR-INDUSTRIES 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID IT WAS NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR MALAYSIA TO BECOME A STRONG AND ESTABLISHED INDUSTRIAL NATION IF THE PEOPLE HAD SELF-CONFIDENCE, AND WERE DISCIPLINED AND HARD-WORKING.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH TO THE FUNCTION AS PART OF HIS VISIT TO SELANGOR, REGRETTED THAT SOME MALAYSIANS ALWAYS RAN DOWN THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

HE SAID THEY EVEN TOLD FOREIGNERS +MALAYSIA ALWAYS HAS GRAND PIPE DREAMS+ WITH THE HOPE OF BEING RESPECTED FOR THEIR +CANDOUR.+

+IN ACTUAL FACT, FOREIGNERS LOOK DOWN ON PEOPLE WHO DELIBERATELY BELITTLE THEIR OWN COUNTRY,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF THE COUNTRY TO COMPETE WITH AND RIVAL OTHER COUNTRIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR BELIEVED THE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT AND DEDICATION COULD OVERCOME ALL DIFFICULTIES. -- MORE

1447MST 30 03 86

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U E310 AAE
MAHATHIR-INDUSTRIES 4 KUALA LUMPUR

ON THE ROLE OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL IN DEVELOPING THE COUNTRY AND PEOPLE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS BN CHAIRMAN, SAID THE BN SERVED THE PEOPLE BECAUSE IT WANTED MALAYSIA TO BE A PEACEFUL, PROSPEROUS, AND PROGRESSIVE NATION RESPECTED BY THE WORLD.

THERE WAS NO MEANING TO ATTAINING INDEPENDENCE IF THE PEOPLE LIVED IN POVERTY, WITHOUT SHELTER AND WITHOUT DEVELOPMENT THAT BENEFITTED ALL.

HE ALSO SAID SOME PEOPLE MIGHT ASK WHAT BN LEADERS WANTED FOR THEMSELVES IN MAKING ALL THESE SACRIFICES FOR THE PEOPLE WITHOUT THOUGHT FOR THEIR OWN NEEDS .

TO SUCH QUERIES, HE SAID WHAT THE BN LEADERS WANTED WAS TO LEAD A DEVELOPED COUNTRY WITH A PROGRESSIVE SOCIETY.

HE STRESSED THAT LEADERS HAD NO REASON TO BE PLEASED WITH THEMSELVES IF THE PEOPLE THEY LED LIVED IN HUTS IN SQUATTER AREAS.

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1450MST 30 03 86

U E315 AAE
MAHATHIR-INDUSTRIES 5 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WANTED TO SEE MALAYSIANS LIVING IN COMFORTABLE DWELLINGS AND NOT IN AREAS LACKING PIPED WATER, ELECTRICITY AND OTHER BASIC AMENITIES.

+IF SUCH A SORRY SITUATION IS A NATIONAL CHARACTERISTIC, THE COUNTRY'S LEADERS WOULD BE SHAMED AND NOT KNOW WHERE TO HIDE THEIR FACE WHEN MEETING LEADERS OF OTHER COUNTRIES,+ HE SAID, STRESSING THAT THIS WAS WHAT SPURRED THE BN GOVERNMENT TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DEVELOP THE COUNTRY AND PEOPLE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, LATER HAD A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE SELANGOR UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEE IN RISDA BUILDING.

STATE UMNO LIAISON CHIEF AND MENTERI BESAR DATUK HAJI AHMAD RAZALI ALI WAS PRESENT.

HE LATER PERFORMED PRAYERS AT THE TAMAN TASIK TAMBAHAN MOSQUE, AMPANG, WITH OTHER MUSLIMS.

DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH WHO HAD A SEPARATE PROGRAMME VISITED THE AMPANG OLD FOLKS HOME. -- BERNAMA

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