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MAHATHIR-BUMIPUTERAS
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KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 12, (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE ATTITUDE OF BUMIPUTERA BUSINESSMEN WHO TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS FRUSTRATED WHEN NEW BUSINESS IDEAS HE PROPOSED BUT WHICH WERE NOT TAKEN UP BY BUMIPUTERA BUSINESSMEN LATER PROVED SUCCESSFUL WHEN IMPLEMENTED BY OTHERS.

HE WAS OPENING A NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE +BUMIPUTERA ECONOMIC CRISIS+ ORGANISED BY THE FEDERAL TERRITORY BUMIPUTERA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

HE CITED THE FRANCHISE BUSINESS AS AN EXAMPLE, AN IDEA HE FIRST MOOTED WHEN HE WAS WITH FOOD INDUSTRIES MALAYSIA BHD (FIMA).

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THERE WERE STILL AMPLE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES THAT COULD BE EXPLOITED IN THE COUNTRY. -- MORE
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THE MAIN SETBACK WAS THAT BUMIPUTERA BUSINESSMEN WERE ONLY WILLING TO GO INTO VENTURES THAT PROVIDED EASY AND FAST RETURNS, HE SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT PERFORM MIRACLES SINCE THERE ARE NO SUCH THINGS AS BUSINESS MIRACLES,+ HE SAID.

ONLY TRUSTWORTHINESS, SHEER HARD WORK AND MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCY COULD ENSURE BUSINESS SUCCESS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ONLY IF BUMIPUTERA BUSINESSMEN WERE WILLING TO WORK HARD AND BE MORE ORGANISED COULD THEY REAP THE FRUITS OF SUCCESS.

+WE CAN'T GO ON GRUMBLING BECAUSE THIS WILL NOT SOLVE PROBLEMS. INSTEAD, WE SHOULD REGARD PROBLEMS AS CHALLENGES AND FIND WAYS TO OVERCOME THEM.+

HE HIT OUT AT CERTAIN BUSINESSMEN WHO MISUSED FUNDS FOR NON-BUSINESS PURPOSES. -- MORE
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EARLIER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MALAYSIAN BUMIPUTERA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, DR NAWAWI MAT AWIN, DESCRIBED THE CURRENT CRISIS FACING BUMIPUTERA BUSINESSMEN AS SERIOUS AND REAL.

ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME WHO PLACED SYMBOLS OF WEALTH ABOVE EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT, MOST OF THE BUMIPUTERA BUSINESSMEN WERE ACTUALLY VICTIMS OF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS BEYOND THEIR CONTROL, HE SAID.

HE ASKED: +WILL THE ACHIEVEMENT OF BUMIPUTERAS IN THE PAST 15 YEARS, WHICH IS FAR BETTER THAN THAT IN THE 150 YEARS EARLIER, BE ERODED IN A SHORT SPAN OF 15 MONTHS?+

DR NAWAWI, THE FORMER BANK BUMIPUTRA CHAIRMAN, HOWEVER POINTED OUT THAT THE PROBLEMS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE ECONOMIC RECESSION NOT ONLY HURT BUMIPUTERAS BUT ALSO OTHERS WHO WERE LONG ESTABLISHED AS WELL.

THE ONLY DIFFERENCE WAS THAT THOSE WHO WERE LONG-ESTABLISHED WERE WELL PREPARED FOR THE HARD TIMES AS AGAINST THOSE WHO HAD JUST STARTED, HE SAID.

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DR NAWAWI SAID HE HAD FROM THE BEGINNING MET DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS FACED BY BUMIPUTERA BUSINESSMEN.

UNFORTUNATELY, ALTHOUGH THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE PROBLEMS, THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS HAD WORSENERD FURTHER FOLLOWING THE ALARMING FALL IN COMMODITY PRICES, HE SAID.

HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS WOULD GIVE MORE ATTENTION TOWARDS RESCUING AILING COMPANIES RATHER THAN HELPING THEM TO CLOSE DOWN.

HE SAID THE CHAMBER FULLY SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT'S MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE THE RECESSION, CAUSED BY THE GLOBAL SLOWDOWN.

HE SAID THE CHAMBER ALSO AGREED THAT THE KEY TO OVERCOMING THE CURRENT PROBLEM WAS RAISING PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY. -- BERNAMA
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