

0852

B E546 AAE
MAHATHIR

86

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 24, (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED ON ASEAN COUNTRIES TO MAKE GREATER EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AMONG THEM TO MINIMISE COSTS AND SHARE THE BENEFITS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA, ON ITS PART, WOULD CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ASEAN IN ALL SPHERES OF COMMON INTEREST, INCLUDING THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

+I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO URGE THAT THE DIALOGUE PARTNERS OF ASEAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF ASEAN TO IMPROVE ITS TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITY AND TO PROMOTE THE GROWTH OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,+ HE SAID.

HE WAS OPENING THE FIRST ASEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WEEK AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE HERE.

HE NOTED THAT IN THE PAST, A NUMBER OF DIALOGUE COUNTRIES HAD MADE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO ASEAN.

+THEIR GENEROSITY WILL NOT GO UNREQUITED,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT IN AN INTERDEPENDENT WORLD A PROSPEROUS ASEAN RESULTING FROM A BALANCED AND SCIENTIFICALLY BASED DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE MORE TOWARDS WORLD TRADE AND PROSPERITY THAN IF IT WERE POVERTY-STRICKEN. -- MORE.

1315MST 24 04 86

0856

U E548 AAE
MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ON THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT WHILE IT MAY BE TRUE THAT IN SOME CASES THE ADVANCED COUNTRIES WERE UNWILLING TO TRANSFER THEIR TECHNOLOGY, IT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER THE READINESS OF THE ASEAN PEOPLE TO ACCEPT NEW TECHNOLOGY.

+AT THE RISK OF STEPPING ON SOME TOES, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT SOMETIMES WE ARE NEITHER PSYCHOLOGICALLY NOR ATTITUDINALLY PREPARED TO RECEIVE THE TECHNOLOGY WE NEED,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT +IF WE HAVE SOME SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE WE WOULD ALSO BE UNWILLING TO IMPART SUCH KNOWLEDGE TO OUR POTENTIAL COMPETITORS.

+IF WE ARE GOING TO GET ANYWHERE IN THE ACQUISITION OF TECHNOLOGY, WE MUST PREPARE OURSELVES FULLY AND GO AFTER WHAT WE WANT.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT TO DO THIS +WE HAVE TO DO OUR OWN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BEGINNING WITH THE BASICS THAT WE CAN ACQUIRED FAIRLY EASILY.+ -- MORE.

1321MST 24 04 86

0859

U E549 AAE
MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

IN THIS RESPECT, HE SAID, MALAYSIA PLACED GREATER EMPHASIS ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R AND D) ACTIVITIES AS SPELLED OUT UNDER THE FIFTH MALAYSIA PLAN.

+THE GOVERNMENT WILL INTRODUCE TAX AND OTHER INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT SUCH INVOLVEMENT COULD BE THROUGH IN-HOUSE R AND D OR RESEARCH COLLABORATION WITH INSTITUTIONS IN THE COUNTRY OR CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE CENTRAL R AND D FUND.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE VULNERABILITY OF THE MALAYSIAN ECONOMY TO CHANGES IN EXTERNAL DEMAND FOR ITS PRIMARY COMMODITIES HAD MADE THE COUNTRY REALISE THE NEED FOR FURTHER DIVERSIFICATION INTO MANUFACTURING FOR EXPORT.

+R AND D ACTIVITIES, THEREFORE, HAVE TO BE DIRECTED TOWARDS INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY AND DIVERSIFYING THE INDUSTRIAL BASE TO ENSURE THAT MALAYSIA HAS A COMPETITIVE EDGE AND TO ENABLE ITS ENTRY INTO OVERSEAS MARKETS,+ HE SAID.

IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY, SERIOUS EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY FROM ABROAD, HE SAID. -- MORE.

1328MST 24 04 86

D865

U E551 AAE
MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM RESULTS, MALAYSIANS WOULD BE PREPARED, IN THE EDUCATIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS, TO RECEIVE NEW TECHNOLOGY.

HE SAID SCIENCE WOULD BE +DEMYSTIFIED+ BY EXPOSING THE MAN IN THE STREET TO THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS AND EXPLANATIONS OF EVERYDAY HAPPENINGS.

+IT IS HOPED THAT EVENTUALLY THE MALAYSIAN SOCIETY WILL CONSIST OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH ENQUIRING MINDS AND A DESIRE TO SEARCH AND RESEARCH THEIR ENVIRONMENT,+ HE SAID.

THE ASEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WEEK IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE ASEAN COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (NCSRD).

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE WEEK, A FIVE-DAY CONFERENCE ON +DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR ADVANCEMENT IN ASEAN+ BEGAN AT THE PNIC TODAY.

ABOUT 500 PEOPLE ARE ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE AIMED AT PROVIDING A FORUM TO REVIEW SPECIFIC SUBJECTS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. --

BERNAMA

1339MST 24 04 86