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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 9<sup>87</sup> (BERNAMA) -- PERMODALAN NASIONAL BERHAD (PNB) CONTRIBUTES NOT ONLY TO THE PROGRESS OF BUMIPUTERAS BUT ALSO TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION IN GENERAL, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PNB, TOGETHER WITH AMANAH SAHAM NASIONAL (ASN), HAD INVESTED IN MORE THAN 100 COMPANIES IN VARIOUS ECONOMIC SECTORS, WITH INVESTMENT TOTALLING \$6 BILLION, THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE DEWAN RAKYAT.

TO A QUESTION BY ENCIK ABDUL GHANI OTHMAN (BN-LEDANG), HE SAID THE PNB WOULD CONTINUE MAKING INVESTMENTS AND PLAYING ITS ROLE IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT ECONOMIC SECTORS THROUGH ITS CONTROL OVER CERTAIN COMPANIES.

HE ALSO SAID IT WAS THE PNB'S DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THE COMPANIES IN WHICH IT HAD SHARES MADE REASONABLE PROFITS AND THAT THE MANAGEMENT RAN THE COMPANIES' OPERATIONS EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY.

APART FROM THIS, THE PNB WOULD ALSO CREATE AND TRAIN A BUMIPUTERA WORKFORCE OF HIGH CALIBRE TO MANAGE COMPANY OPERATIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN WHICH THE PNB HAD THE MAJORITY SHARES, HE ADDED.

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO TOLD THE DEWAN RAKYAT THAT THE PNB CURRENTLY PROVIDED VARIOUS FACILITIES, INCLUDING ADVISORY AND RESEARCH SERVICES, FOR BUMIPUTERA ENTREPRENEURS.

TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION BY DR TAN SENG GIEW (DAP-KEPONG), HE SAID THE PNB PLANNED TO EXPAND ITS INVESTMENTS OVERSEAS IN EFFORTS TO SECURE PROFITS WHICH ALL THIS WHILE HAD BEEN ENJOYED BY DEVELOPED NATIONS.

HE SAID THAT SOME OF THE COMPANIES OF THE PNB WERE SET UP WHEN THE COUNTRY WAS RULED BY THE BRITISH WHO ALREADY HAD WIDE INVESTMENTS OVERSEAS, ADDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION OF RESTRICTING PNB INVESTMENTS ABROAD. -- BERNAMA

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