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MAHATHIR-ENTREPRENEURS

KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 13<sup>27</sup> (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY TOLD FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO BE MORE SYMPATHETIC TO THE PROBLEMS FACED BY BUMIPUTERA ENTREPRENEURS AND TO ASSIST THEM WHERE POSSIBLE.

HE ALSO URGED BANKS TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR THE SPECIAL REHABILITATION UNITS WHICH THEY SET UP TO ASSIST BUMIPUTERA ENTREPRENEURS WHO HAD PROBLEMS OF REPAYING THEIR LOANS OWING TO THE ECONOMIC RECESSION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WHEN CHAIRING A CLOSED-DOOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT, BUMIPUTERA ENTREPRENEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AT BANK NEGARA HERE.

A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE CENTRAL BANK SAYS DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO URGED BUMIPUTERA BUSINESSMEN AND ENTREPRENEURS TO CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE BY NOT BEING TOO DEPENDENT ON THE GOVERNMENT AND TO TIGHTEN THEIR FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE.

THE DIALOGUE WAS A FOLLOW-UP TO A DECISION MADE BY FINANCE MINISTER DAIM ZAINUDDIN RECENTLY THAT BANK NEGARA LOOK INTO PROBLEMS BUMIPUTERA ENTREPRENEURS HAD WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. -- MORE  
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THE STATEMENT SAYS THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE DIALOGUE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LOOK INTO VARIOUS PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL MALAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, INCLUDING A TWO-YEAR MORATORIUM ON LOAN REPAYMENTS AND THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL REVOLVING FUND TO ASSIST AILING BUMIPUTERA ENTREPRENEURS AND COMPANIES.

THE CHAMBER'S 36-MEMBER TEAM TO THE DIALOGUE WAS LED BY ITS PRESIDENT, DR NAWAWI MAT AWIN.

OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED INCLUDED THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO PROTECT COMPANIES AGAINST LEGAL ACTION BY BANKS, THE CREATION OF A SECOND BOARD FOR BUMIPUTERA ENTREPRENEURS ON THE KUALA LUMPUR STOCK EXCHANGE AND REVIEWING TENDER PROCEDURES TO SPEED UP PAYMENTS FOR BUMIPUTERA ENTREPRENEURS.

PRESENT AT THE DIALOGUE WERE ENCIK DAIM, TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER DATIN PADUKA RAFIDAH AZIZ, DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER MOHAMED FARID ARIFFIN AND BANK NEGARA GOVERNOR TAN SRI JAFFAR HUSSEIN.

IT WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, MARA, BANK PEMBANGUNAN, CREDIT GUARANTEE CORPORATION, BANK RAKYAT, THE ASSOCIATION OF BANKS IN MALAYSIA AND THE ASSOCIATION OF MERCHANT BANKS. -- BERNAMA

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