

0729

B E461 AAE  
MAHATHIR (CORRECTED REPETITION) RRR  
BM

MELAKA, JULY 30 (BERNAMA) -- EVERYONE INCLUDING TRADE UNIONS HAVE A DUTY TO SAFEGUARD THE COUNTRY'S ENCOURAGING ECONOMIC CLIMATE AND ENSURE NOTHING JEOPARDISES ITS RECOVERY, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

+WE MUST ALL ASSUME THIS RESPONSIBILITY BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT ALONE COULD NOT ATTRACT INVESTORS TO THE COUNTRY,+ HE REPLIED TO A QUESTION FROM REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE SEVENTH DELEGATES' CONFERENCE OF THE MALAYSIAN MALAY HAWKERS AND PETTY TRADERS ASSOCIATION AT THE HANG JEDAT HALL OF THE AYER KEROH EXPO CENTRE HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ASKED FOR HIS OPINION ON THE PROPOSAL BY THE NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL (NJC) STAFF SIDE FOR STATUTORY BODIES TO LAUNCH A STRIKE THIS NOVEMBER IF A FAVOURABLE REPLY IS NOT FORTHCOMING FROM THE GOVERNMENT OVER CIVIL SERVANTS' SALARY ADJUSTMENT CLAIMS.

THE NJCSB HAS BEEN EXPELLED FROM THE JOINT COMMITTEE TO RESOLVE THE CLAIMS. THE OTHER MEMBERS ARE THE FOUR OTHER NJCS, FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES, THE TEACHING SERVICE, SUBORDINATE GROUP AND THE GENERAL SERVICES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IN A SITUATION OF INCIPIENT ECONOMIC RECOVERY, SUCH AN ACTION (STRIKE) WOULD NOT ENCOURAGE INVESTORS TO COME TO MALAYSIA. -- MORE  
1706MST 30 07 88

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B E429 AAE  
MAHATHIR 2 MELAKA RRR

+IF WE RESORT TO INDUSTRIAL ACTION TOO EASILY, I FEAR PEOPLE WILL BE SCARED TO COME TO THIS COUNTRY,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT INVESTMENTS GENERATED JOBS FOR THE JOBLESS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHEN THE UNEMPLOYED FOUND JOBS, THEY WOULD THEN JOIN TRADE UNIONS.

+THUS, UNIONS OBSTRUCTING THE CREATION OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES ARE ACTUALLY RETARDING THEIR OWN GROWTH.+

IN VIEW OF THIS, IT WAS INCUMBENT UPON ALL QUARTERS TO SAFEGUARD THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC CLIMATE SO MORE INVESTORS WOULD PUT THEIR CAPITAL INTO MALAYSIA.

ON PROBLEMS PETTY TRADERS AND HAWKERS FACE IN GETTING BANK LOANS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID BANKS HAD BEEN ADVISED TO RELAX THEIR LOAN CONDITIONS. -- MORE  
1548MST 30 07 88

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B E448 AAE  
MAHATHIR 3 MELAKA RRR

NEVERTHELESS, THIS DID NOT MEAN ALL LOAN APPLICATIONS WOULD BE APPROVED AS THIS DECISION WAS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE BANKS CONCERNED.

+BANKS CANNOT JUST GIVE MONEY TO ANYONE WHO ASKS FOR IT BECAUSE THE MONEY DOES NOT BELONG TO THEM,+ HE ADDED.

THE PROBLEM WAS RAISED BY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT HAJI MUHIDAN MOHAMED NATAR IN HIS WELCOMING ADDRESS. HE ALLEGED BANKS WERE RELUCTANT TO EXTEND CREDIT TO HAWKERS AND PETTY TRADERS ON THE PURPORTED GROUNDS THAT SOME OF THEM HAD STILL FAILED TO SETTLE THEIR DEBTS WITH BANKS.

HAJI MUHIDAN FELT THIS WAS NOT FAIR TO OTHER PROSPECTIVE BORROWERS.

THE PRIME MINISTER, IN HIS SPEECH, CONCEDED CASES OF BUSINESSMEN BORROWING AND NOT RE-PAYING WERE OCCURRING TO THE EXTENT OF CAUSING BANKS TO BE CAUTIOUS WHEN LENDING MONEY. -- MORE  
1615MST 30 07 88

B E459 AAE  
MAHATHIR 4 MELAKA

MARA WHICH GAVE OUT LOANS TO MALAY BUSINESSMEN AND ENTREPRENEURS ALSO FACED THE PROBLEM OF LOAN DEFAULTERS.

ACCORDING TO HIM, THE PROBLEM IS DUE TO LACK OF INTEGRITY. HE SAID HE FOUND IT STRANGE THAT WHEN PEOPLE BORROWED THE BELONGING OF OTHERS, THEY USUALLY TOOK GOOD CARE OF IT BUT WHEN IT CAME TO MONEY, IT WAS A DIFFERENT STORY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ALTHOUGH MONEY WAS ESSENTIAL IN BUSINESS, IT DID NOT GUARANTEE SUCCESS BY ITSELF. WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT EXPERTISE.

MELAKA CHIEF MINISTER DATUK SERI RAHIM THAMBY CHIK, IN HIS SPEECH, SAID THE STATE GOVERNMENT WOULD BUILD A TOURIST MARKET TO ATTRACT MORE VISITORS TO MELAKA.

THE 24-HOUR FACILITY WILL HAVE ABOUT 100 STALLS SELLING FRUITS FOUND IN THE COUNTRY, ACCORDING TO HIM. -- MORE  
1650MST 30 07 88

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B E460 AAE  
MAHATHIR 5 MELAKA

DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH WHO ACCOMPANIED DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR VISITED THE EXHIBITION ON TRADITIONAL CUISINE OF THE DIFFERENT STATES HELD OUTSIDE THE HALL.

IN HER SPEECH, SHE STRESSED THE NECESSITY OF ENSURING CLEANLINESS AND QUALITY AS WELL AS WIDE CHOICE IN THE FOOD BUSINESS TO ATTRACT CUSTOMERS.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS WIFE ALSO CALLED ON THE CHIEF MINISTER'S WIFE DATIN SERI ZABEDAH HAJI ABDULLAH AT THE MATERNITY WARD OF THE GENERAL HOSPITAL HERE.

SHE GAVE BIRTH TO A BABY BOY ON JULY 26. THE COUPLE NOW HAVE FOUR CHILDREN, THREE OF THEM GIRLS. -- BERNAMA  
1451MST 30 07 88