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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 28/ (BERNAMA) -- BUMIPUTERAS WILL NOT BENEFIT FULLY FROM ANY EXTENSION OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY (NEP) AFTER 1990 IF THEIR MANAGEMENT COMPETENCY IS NOT IMPROVED, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCY WAS A CRUCIAL QUALITY AND DIFFICULT TO FIND AMONG BUMIPUTERAS.

OPENING THE THREE-DAY UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT SAID THE NEP WOULD BE REVIEWED IN 1990 AS THE TARGETS SET FOR THE BUMIPUTERA COMMUNITY HAD YET TO BE FULLY ACHIEVED.

HE SAID WEAKNESSES^A IN THE NEP HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED, WHERE THE PROVISION OF OPPORTUNITIES, FACILITIES, CAPITAL AND MANPOWER BY THE GOVERNMENT WERE STILL INSUFFICIENT FOR THE SUCCESS OF BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRIES OWNED BY BUMIPUTERAS, WHETHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH BUMIPUTERA TRUST AGENCIES.

FOR THE SUCCESS OF EFFORTS TO BRING BUMIPUTERAS ON PAR IN BUSINESS WITH THE NON-BUMIPUTERAS, THE EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE OF BUMIPUTERAS MUST BE UPGRADED THROUGH VARIOUS MEANS, INCLUDING THROUGH +APPRENTICESHIP+ TO THOSE WITH THE MANAGEMENT SKILLS. -- MORE
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IN THIS CONNECTION, THE OTHER GROUPS, INCLUDING FOREIGNERS, WERE REQUIRED TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE, AS THE SOONER THEY SUCCEEDED IN HELPING BUMIPUTERAS GAIN THE NECESSARY SKILLS, THE SOONER WOULD THE BALANCE BETWEEN BUMIPUTERAS AND THE OTHER RACES BE ACHIEVED.

+THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NEP WILL NEVER BE SATISFACTORILY MET FOR AS LONG AS THE BUMIPUTERAS ARE NOT GIVEN ASSISTANCE IN MANAGEMENT EXPERTISE TO ENABLE THEM TO COMPETE WITH OTHERS.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID BUMIPUTERAS ON THEIR PART COULD NOT WAIT AROUND FOR THIS TO HAPPEN BUT WORK TO RECTIFY THEIR MISTAKES AND WEAKNESSES.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGED JOINT-VENTURES BETWEEN BUMIPUTERAS AND NON-BUMIPUTERAS PROVIDED THE FORMER PLAYED A MEANINGFUL MANAGEMENT ROLE IN THE PARTNERSHIP.

ALTHOUGH THERE WERE WHOLLY-OWNED BUMIPUTERA COMPANIES, THEIR NUMBER WAS SMALL AND THEY WERE PROBABLY UNABLE BY THEMSELVES TO SECURE THE 30 PERCENT BUMIPUTERA SHARE IN THE CORPORATE SECTOR AS LAID DOWN BY THE NEP. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-ECONOMY 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE ASSEMBLY, ATTENDED BY SOME 4,000 DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS, THAT AWARDS A PROJECT TO A WHOLLY-OWNED BUMIPUTERA COMPANY JUST BECAUSE IT WAS SUCH WHEN THE COMPANY IN FACT DID NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO MANAGE THE PROJECT, WAS DOING A GRAVE DISSERVICE TO THE OBJECTIVE TO HELP BUMIPUTERAS.

THE INCREASING NUMBER OF BUMIPUTERAS SOUGHT BY THE BANKS OR DECLARED BANKRUPT WAS DUE TO THEIR OWN ATTEMPT TO TAKE ON MORE THAN THEY COULD HANDLE, THEIR LACK OF MANAGEMENT COMPETENCY AND THEIR INABILITY TO SURMOUNT THE ECONOMIC RECESSION.

IN VIEW OF THIS, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD STUDY THEIR CAPABILITIES THOROUGHLY BEFORE AWARDS ANY CONTRACTS TO THEM.

→WE DO NOT HAVE THE INTENTION OF MAKING MALAY BUSINESSMEN AND ENTREPRENEURS BANKRUPT SO THEY WILL BECOME DEPENDENT ON US. WE WANT TO MAKE THEM COMPETENT, SELF-RELIANT AND ABLE TO COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY WITH OTHERS.→

ON DEVELOPING MALAYSIA INTO A NEWLY INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRY (NIC), DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THIS ASPIRATION WAS NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO ATTAIN BECAUSE MANY DEVELOPED NATIONS HAD AT ONE TIME STARTED AS BACKWARD AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-ECONOMY 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THEY BECAME DEVELOPED TODAY BECAUSE THEY EMBARKED ON INDUSTRIALISATION WHOLEHEARTEDLY.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR WAS AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF THE ECONOMY, IT MIGHT NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO GENERATE JOBS FOR THE THOUSANDS OF SCHOOL-LEAVERS AND GRADUATES ANNUALLY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE TRUTH WAS THAT THERE WAS NOTHING MALAYSIA COULD NOT ALSO MANUFACTURE, BUT THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER THE COST AND QUALITY WOULD MAKE THIS A SUCCESSFUL VENTURE.

IN THIS CONNECTION, AN EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT COGNIZANT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FINANCIAL AND COST CONTROL, UTILISATION OF MACHINERY AND APPLICATION OF THE BEST PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES WAS VITAL.

HE SAID IT WAS NOT DIFFICULT TO MARKET HIGH QUALITY GOODS OR SERVICES AT HIGH AND MORE PROFITABLE PRICES. ON THE OTHER HAND, OFFERING CHEAP PRICES FOR LOW QUALITY PRODUCTS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY GUARANTEE GOOD SALES IN TODAY'S MODERN MARKET.

FOR MALAYSIA TO ATTAIN DEVELOPED NATION STATUS, MALAYSIANS MUST ENHANCE THEIR EXPERTISE IN ALL FIELDS TO BE ON PAR OR BETTER THAN THAT OF DEVELOPED SOCIETIES, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA

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