

D682

U E630 AAE

MAHATHIR-BUMIS (CORRECTED REPETITION)

BM

PULAU PINANG, JAN 17 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT REMINDED BUMIPUTERA BUSINESSMEN TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS THEY FACED THEMSELVES WITHOUT DEPENDING TOO MUCH ON THE GOVERNMENT TO FIND THE SOLUTION

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS, PARTICULARLY THE LAST 17, INTRODUCED VARIOUS MEASURES AND POLICIES SUCH AS THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY (NEP) SPECIALLY TO HELP THE BUMIPUTERA BUSINESS COMMUNITY ACHIEVE PARITY WITH THE OTHER RACES IN THE COUNTRY.

DURING THE BOOM TIMES ENJOYED BY THE COUNTRY, IT APPEARED THE GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES HAD MET WITH FULL SUCCESS, BUT THE ECONOMIC RECESSION THAT HAD NOW HIT THE COUNTRY EXPOSED THE FRAGILITY OF THE SUCCESS.

+MANY BUMIPUTERA ENTREPRENEURS AND BUSINESSMEN WHO BECAME RICH DURING THE GOOD TIMES HAVE NOW FALLEN BANKRUPT,+ THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD MEMBERS OF THE MALAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF MALAYSIA AT A DINNER AT THE GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE HERE.

HE SAID THE RECESSION HAD EXPOSED WEAKNESSES AMONG THEM THAT HAD ALL THIS WHILE BEEN CONCEALED BY THE APPARENT +SUCCESS+ ACHIEVED DURING THE TIMES OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY. -- MORE
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR FELT THEIR BUSINESS DOWNFALL WAS DUE TO NOT JUST THE RECESSION BUT ALSO BAD MANAGEMENT AND PERSONAL WEAKNESSES SUCH AS DISHONESTY AND FAILURE TO ADOPT GOOD BUSINESS PRACTICES.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT WANT TO SEE BUMIPUTERAS CONTINUE TO FACE DIFFICULTIES AND AMONG THE NEW MEASURES IT HAD TAKEN WAS ALLOCATING \$500 MILLION TO HELP AILING BUMIPUTERA BUSINESSES REGAIN THEIR VIABILITY.

+THESE EFFORTS HOWEVER WILL NOT ACHIEVE THEIR AIM IF BUMIPUTERAS THEMSELVES DO NOT CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE AND DO NOT WANT TO WORK TOGETHER TO OVERCOME THEIR PROBLEMS,+ HE STRESSED.

HE HOPED BUMIPUTERAS WOULD NOT USE THE RECESSION AS AN EXCUSE FOR THEIR FAILURE BECAUSE OTHER PEOPLE LIKE THE SOUTH KOREANS, TAIWANESE AND THAIS COULD STILL PROSPER DESPITE THE CONSTRAINTS DUE TO THEIR DRIVE TO SUCCEED.

HE ADVISED BUMIPUTERA ENTREPRENEURS AND BUSINESSMEN TO TAKE A HARD LOOK AT THE FACTS OF THE CASE SO AS TO KNOW THEIR OWN WEAKNESSES AND FIND A WAY OUT OF THEIR DIFFICULTIES. -- MORE
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THE PRIME MINISTER ADVISED THE CHAMBER LEADERSHIP NOT TO INDULGE IN POLITICS BUT TO CONTINUE TO DEVOTE THEIR EFFORTS TO STRENGTHENING THE FINANCIAL STANDING OF MEMBERS AND THE BUMIPUTERA COMMUNITY IN GENERAL. .

HE FEARED IF THEY ENGAGED IN POLITICS LIKE THE POLITICIANS DO, BUMIPUTERAS WOULD NOT ACHIEVE ECONOMIC SUCCESS BECAUSE OF TOO MUCH TIME WASTED ON STRUGGLES FOR POWER.

ON PRESS SPECULATIONS OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A FIERCE FIGHT IN THE ELECTIONS OF THE CHAMBER'S OFFICE-BEARERS, HE WAS THANKFUL THE PREDICTIONS DID NOT COME TO PASS AND WAS HAPPY THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HAD BEEN SMOOTH, SAYING THIS AUGURED WELL FOR THE CHAMBER'S PERFORMANCE THIS YEAR.

DR NAWAWI MAT AWIN, WHO WAS RETURNED UNOPPOSED AS CHAMBER PRESIDENT THIS MORNING, SAID HE AND THE NEWLY-RETURNED COMMITTEE MEMBERS HOPED TO HAVE A MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER TO DISCUSS SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS FACED BY BUMIPUTERA BUSINESSMEN AND ENTREPRENEURS.

AMONG THE GUESTS AT THE DINNER WERE PULAU PINANG ACTING CHIEF MINISTER DATUK KHOO KAY POR, EDUCATION MINISTER ANWAR IBRAHIM, DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER SENATOR FARID ARIFFIN AND UMNO VICE-PRESIDENT DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI. -- BERNAMA
2341MST 17 01 88