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R E254 AAE

MAHATHIR-WORKERS R'R'R'R'R'R'

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 16 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR

MOHAMAD TODAY ADVISED WORKERS NOT TO CARRY OUT ANY NEGATIVE ACTIONS WHICH CAN HAMPER MALAYSIA'S ASPIRATIONS TO JOIN THE RANKS OF THE NEWLY INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES (NIC).

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID NEGATIVE ACTIONS BY WORKERS WOULD ALSO FRIGHTEN AWAY LOCAL AND FOREIGN INVESTORS AND THIS WOULD INDIRECTLY HAMPER EFFORTS TO CREATE MORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

HE ASKED THE WORKERS TO RECALL THE DIFFICULTIES THEY UNDERWENT WHEN THEY WERE YOUNG OR WHEN THEY WERE WITHOUT JOBS AND SAID:

+UNFORTUNATELY, WHEN THEY ARE EMPLOYED THEY FORGET ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT. THEY FAIL TO REALISE THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE WITHOUT JOBS AND THEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE UNEMPLOYED IF THERE ARE NO JOB OPPORTUNITIES DUE TO THE NEGATIVE ACTIONS BY WORKERS.+

OPENING THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CENTRE IN CHERAS HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID WORKERS SHOULD NOT CREATE PROBLEMS TO THE NATION'S INDUSTRIAL CLIMATE IF MALAYSIA ASPIRED TO CREATE MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PEOPLE.

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1418MST 16 04 88

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R E255 AAE

MAHATHIR-WORKERS 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'R'R'R'

+OUR COUNTRY IS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY AND THE PEOPLE CANNOT FOLLOW WHAT IS PRACTISED IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS THIS MAY CREATE CERTAIN PROBLEMS,+ HE SAID.

+WHILE BEING HAPPY WITH WHAT WE HAVE GOT, WE SHOULD ALSO THINK OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE YOUTH, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED SO THAT THEIR OPPORTUNITIES ARE NOT AFFECTED,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER DID NOT REFER TO THE ACTION OF ANY WORKERS' GROUP IN HIS SPEECH. HOWEVER, THE NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL (NJC) FOR STATUTORY BODIES HELD A NATIONWIDE PICKET ON APRIL 11 TO BACK CLAIMS FOR A SALARY REVISION FOR CIVIL SERVANTS.

MEANWHILE, THE SYARIKAT TELEKOM MALAYSIA EMPLOYEES UNION WILL ISSUE STRIKE BALLOTS ON MAY 1 TO SEEK A MANDATE FOR INDUSTRIAL ACTION TO BACK THEIR OUTSTANDING CLAIMS FOR BONUS PAYMENT.

YESTERDAY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IN PERAK THAT MALAYSIA COULD JOIN THE RANKS OF THE NEWLY INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES SOONER THAN EXPECTED BUT FOR THE +OBSTACLES+ PLACED IN ITS WAY -- AND THE CYNICS.

HE HAD SAID THAT WITH COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION FROM THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT, THE COUNTRY WOULD BE ABLE TO JOIN THE NIC CLUB POSSIBLY WITHIN THE NEXT 10 YEARS. -- MORE

1441MST 16 04 88

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U E262 AAE
MAHATHIR-WORKERS 3 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'R'R'R'

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SPOKE OF THE ROLE OF THE YOUTH AND SAID THEY SHOULD BE ACTIVE IN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MOVEMENTS WHICH WOULD GIVE THEM GREATER EXPOSURE AND ENHANCE THEIR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

HE URGED THEM TO STEP UP EFFORTS TO ORGANISE MORE ACTIVITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION AND PEOPLE.

HOWEVER, THE YOUTH SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS OF NEGATIVE ELEMENTS EXPLOITING THE SITUATION TO INFLUENCE THEM.

+THE YOUTH SHOULD TRY TO IDENTIFY THOSE WHO AIMED TO USE THEM,+ HE SAID.

+THEY SHOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO WORK HARDER AND CULTIVATE GOOD VALUES SO THEY WILL BECOME A REAL ASSET TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE COUNTRY.+ -- MORE

1522MST 16 04 88

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U E282 AAE
MAHATHIR-WORKERS 5 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'R'R'R'

ON THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CENTRE, HE HOPED THE CENTRE WOULD HELP ENHANCE THE CAPABILITY AND PRODUCTIVITY OF THE NATION'S YOUTH AND THAT OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

THE \$12.5 MILLION CENTRE, BUILT ON A 1.6HA SITE, COMPRISES A THREE-STOREY ADMINISTRATION BLOCK AND FOUR-STOREY RECREATION AND HOSTEL BLOCK.

AMONG THE FACILITIES AT THE CENTRE ARE A HOSTEL THAT CAN ACCOMMODATE 240 PEOPLE, MULTI-PURPOSE HALL, GYMNASIUM, RESTAURANT AND SEVEN SHOP LOTS.

THE PATRON OF THE JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY EDUCATION FOUNDATION, ENCIK KAMPO HARADA, WHO CONTRIBUTED \$10 MILLION TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CENTRE, WAS AMONG THOSE PRESENT AT THE FUNCTION. -- BERNAMA

1646MST 16 04 88