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LABOUR-MESSAGES

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KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 30 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS URGED ALL QUARTERS ESPECIALLY THE LABOUR FORCE TO CONTINUE TO PRESERVE AND INTENSIFY A GOOD ECONOMIC CLIMATE IN THE COUNTRY.

IN A MESSAGE ISSUED IN CONJUNCTION WITH LABOUR DAY TOMORROW, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE HOW IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS WERE FOR THE COUNTRY AND WAS ALWAYS MAKING EFFORTS TO ATTRACT MORE INVESTMENTS TO GENERATE JOBS FOR THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID MALAYSIANS ON THEIR PART SHOULD REALISE THEY COULD NOT ALWAYS FOLLOW THE PRACTICES OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, WHICH WERE NOW RE-THINKING THEIR PRACTICES AFER REALISING THEIR PROGRESS COULD NOT CONTINUE BY ITSELF.

THEY HAD BEEN FORCED TO RE-ASSESS THEIR PHILOSOPHIES AND WORK PRACTICES AND IN SEVERAL MATTERS HAD TO RETURN TO THE APPROACH USED WHEN THEY FIRST STRUCK OUT TOWARDS GREATER DEVELOPMENT.

+AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY, WE MUST ENSURE ALL OUR ACTIONS AND PRACTICES ARE CONSONANT WITH THE LEVEL OF OUR DEVELOPMENT AND OUR EFFORTS TO ADVANCE FURTHER,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE

1831MST 30.04 88

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LABOUR MINISTER LEE KIM SAI IN HIS MESSAGE HOPED THE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND WORKERS WAS STRENGTHENED FURTHER TO MAINTAIN OR STEP UP THE ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE, FORECAST AT FOUR PERCENT THIS YEAR.

HE SAID HARMONIOUS INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS WOULD ASSIST GOVERNMENT EFFORTS IN ATTRACTING FOREIGN INVESTORS.

THE MANAGEMENT AND THE WORKERS SHOULD BE MORE INNOVATIVE IN MAKING RE-ADJUSTMENTS FOR BOOSTING SKILLS AND PRODUCTIVITY.

ENCIK LEE SAID HIS MINISTRY WAS IN THE FINAL PHASE OF A STUDY ON THE EMPLOYMENT ACT 1955, TRADE UNIONS ACT 1959 AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT 1959 TO ENCOURAGE MORE PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENTS, BOTH LOCAL AND FOREIGN.

ON EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, HE SAID AN ANALYSIS BY HIS MINISTRY OF JOB VACANCIES ADVERTISED IN MAJOR NEWSPAPERS FOUND THAT ABOUT 5,000 VACANCIES WERE ADVERTISED EACH MONTH. -- MORE

1834MST 30 04 88

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+THE PROBLEM OF MASS RETRENCHMENTS IS ABATING AND LAST YEAR 13,732 WORKERS WERE RETRENCHED COMPARED WITH 20,212 IN 1986 AND 43,844 IN 1985.+

FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, ONLY 1,245 WORKERS WERE DISMISSED.

HE DISCLOSED THAT THE MALAYSIAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MIDA) HAD APPROVED 333 MANUFACTURING PROJECTS LAST YEAR WHICH CAN CREATE 59,800 JOBS.

DAP ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL LEE LAN THYE SAID HIS PARTY WOULD NOT OPPOSE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENTS BUT HOPED SPECIFIC MEASURES WERE TAKEN TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE LOCAL WORKFORCE.

IN IPOH, PERAK* MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI RAMLI NGAH TALIB ASKED WORKERS TO OBSERVE LABOUR DAY TOMORROW WITH THE REALISATION THAT MANY SCHOOL LEAVERS WERE STILL WITHOUT JOBS AND HAD TO BE SUPPORTED BY PARENTS WHO WERE POOR.

THOSE WHO HAD FOUND EMPLOYMENT SHOULD CONSIDER THEMSELVES A FORTUNATE LOT, ESPECIALLY THOSE ENJOYING GOOD PAY AND A COMFORTABLE LIFE.

HE SAID IN HIS MESSAGE THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT HAD TO CONTINUE TO FREEZE SEVERAL POSTS IN CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS DUE TO THE ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS.

-- BERNAMA

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