

U E646 AAE
MAHATHIR-POLICIES
BM

JOHOR BAHRU, AUG 23/ (BERNAMA) -- ALL GOVERNMENT POLICIES ARE FORMULATED AND IMPLEMENTED FOR THE SAKE OF THE PEOPLE AND THE NATION, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY. THE GOVERNMENT DESIGNED THESE POLICIES WITH GOOD INTENTION, AND CERTAINLY NOT TO VICTIMISE CIVIL SERVANTS OR MAKING LIFE DIFFICULT FOR THE PEOPLE, HE SAID WHEN ADDRESSING ABOUT 1,000 GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND STAFF AT THE MENTERI BESAR'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE HERE. DURING THE MEETING, THE PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINED THE OBJECTIVES OF THE LOOK EAST POLICY, THE MALAYSIA INCORPORATED, PRIVATISATION AND THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

HE SAID GOVERNMENT POLICIES WERE AIMED AT DEVELOPING THE COUNTRY INTO ONE WHICH COULD MATCH DEVELOPED NATIONS AND EARN THE RESPECT OF OTHERS.

+ARE WE SATISFIED WITH THE ACHIEVEMENT SO FAR?+ HE SAID, AND CALLED FOR EFFORTS TO FURTHER DEVELOP THE COUNTRY. --MORE/NA004
1412MST 23 08 88

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID LACK OF DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THESE GOVERNMENT POLICIES RESULTED IN MISINTERPRETATION AND MISUNDERSTANDING OF THEIR ACTUAL OBJECTIVES.

HE STRESSED THAT THE POLICIES WERE AIMED AT BENEFITING THE COUNTRY.

ON THE LOOK EAST POLICY, HE DISMISSED CLAIMS THAT IT WAS AIMED AT PROVIDING CONTRACTS TO JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA AND BUYING GOODS FROM THE TWO COUNTRIES.

THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE POLICY WAS EMULATING THE GOOD WORK ETHICS AND TEAM SPIRIT OF THE JAPANESE AND THE KOREANS.

+TEAM SPIRIT, JOINT RESPONSIBILITY AND ADMINISTRATION MANAGEMENT ARE SOME OF THE IMPORTANT ASPECTS WHICH WE CAN LEARN FROM THEM,+ HE SAID.

+THESE WORK ETHICS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE WEST WHICH PRACTISES A CONCEPT SEPARATING THE TOP MANAGEMENT AND THE LOWER RANKS,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
1433MST 23 08 88

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+IF WE CANNOT EMULATE 100 PERCENT OF THE WORK ETHICS OF THE JAPANESE AND KOREANS, WE TRY TO PRACTISE WHATEVER WE CAN,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, THIS DID NOT MEAN MALAYSIANS SHOULD REPUDIATE WESTERN WORK PRACTICES BECAUSE +WE ALSO ADOPT WESTERN WORK ETHICS THAT ARE SUCCESSFUL, IN THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY.+

ON THE MALAYSIA INCORPORATED CONCEPT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR EXPLAINED THE GOVERNMENT INTRODUCED IT TO CORRECT THE MISCONCEPTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR WERE +MUTUAL ENEMIES.+

HE SAID THIS SITUATION MUST BE RECTIFIED BECAUSE +IF WE ARE HONEST WITH OURSELVES, WE MUST ADMIT THAT THE REVENUE EARNED BY THE GOVERNMENT COMES FROM TAXES FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

+IF WE CURB THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS, HOW WILL IT BE ABLE TO PROGRESS, AND IF THE PRIVATE SECTOR SUFFERS LOSSES, THE GOVERNMENT TOO WILL HAVE LESS REVENUE FROM TAXES.+ -- MORE

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+THE GOVERNMENT HAS 40 PERCENT STAKE IN PRIVATE COMPANIES IN MALAYSIA IN THE FORM OF CORPORATE TAX EVEN THOUGH WE DO NOT PAY FOR THE SHARES,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE TAX DERIVED FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR WAS USED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO PAY SALARIES AND CARRY OUT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

+THE MALAYSIA INCORPORATED CONCEPT IS LIKE THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR BEING IN ONE COMPANY WITH EACH HELPING THE OTHER. WE ALSO TRY TO HELP OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR SO IT CAN DEVELOP AND THE GOVERNMENT CAN BENEFIT FROM THIS,+ HE SAID.

+THE MALAYSIA INCORPORATED CONCEPT IS IMPORTANT FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE JAPANESE AND TAIWANESE GOVERNMENTS WERE EVEN WILLING TO PROVIDE INTEREST-FREE LOANS TO DEVELOP THEIR PRIVATE SECTOR INDUSTRIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID MANY GOVERNMENT OFFICERS WERE SUSPICIOUS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIVATISATION POLICY.

HE STRESSED THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS AND WELFARE OF THE WORKERS BEFORE DECIDING TO PRIVATISE ANY OF ITS SERVICES OR AGENCIES. -- MORE

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UNDER THE PRIVATISATION POLICY, A CIVIL SERVANT COULD REMAIN IN THE GOVERNMENT SCHEME AND RECEIVE PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES, HE SAID.

THOSE OPTING TO JOIN THE COMPANY SCHEME COULD GAIN THROUGH PURCHASE OF SHARES IN THE PRIVATISED GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND GET OTHER BENEFITS BASED ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE VENTURES.

HE CITED THE SUCCESS ACHIEVED BY THE KLANG PORT AUTHORITY AFTER SOME OF ITS SERVICES WERE PRIVATISED AND SAID IT NOW ENJOYED A BIGGER TURNOVER AND WAS HANDLING MORE CONTAINERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE SUCCESS WAS SO ENCOURAGING THAT WORKERS AT THE PORT WROTE TO HIM ASKING FOR PRIVATISATION OF THE ENTIRE PORT OPERATIONS.

+THERE ARE ALSO PROFITS TO BE MADE UNDER A GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION BUT NOT AS GOOD AS THAT DERIVED UNDER THE PRIVATISATION POLICY,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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ON THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE WHICH HAS 860,000 STAFF, EXCLUDING POLICE AND ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR GAVE AN ASSURANCE IT WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT BURDENING ANYONE.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, HAD TO SET A LIMIT ON THE NUMBER ACTUALLY REQUIRED BECAUSE THERE HAD BEEN NO LIMIT SO FAR AND RECRUITMENT EXERCISES WERE CONDUCTED ANNUALLY.

+WHEN THE NATION ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE, THERE WERE ONLY 130,000 CIVIL SERVANTS AND NOW THE NUMBER HAS SOARED TO 860,000 AND IF THE NUMBER OF ARMED FORCES AND POLICE PERSONNEL IS INCLUDED, THE FIGURE WILL BE NEARLY ONE MILLION,+ HE SAID.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING WERE JOHOR MENTERI BESAR HAJI MUHYIDDIN YASSIN, STATE SECRETARY DATUK HAJI ABDUL RAHIM RAMLI AND STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS. -- BERNAMA
1657MST 23 08 88