

0017

R E094 ENG
MAHATHIR - INDUSTRY

88
KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 3 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY MALAYSIA HAS TO INDUSTRIALISE FOR THE PEOPLE TO EXPECT A BETTER LIFE.

AND HE BELIEVES THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING MALAYSIA AN INDUSTRIALISED NATION IS NO LONGER A PIPE DREAM.

+IT CAN BE A REALITY,+ HE SAID WHEN ADDRESSING THE 10TH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS' ANNUAL DINNER HERE.

+INDEED IT HAS TO BE IF MALAYSIANS EXPECT TO HAVE A BETTER LIFE,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WAS A LIMIT TO PRODUCTION OF PRIMARY COMMODITIES, BUT THE LIMITING FACTOR FOR MANUFACTURING IS +THE WILL TO WORK HARD AND TO COMPETE+. -- MORE

2259MST 03 09 88

0988

U E095 ENG
MAHATHIR - INDUSTRY 2 KUALA LUMPUR

IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, HE SAID, AS EXPECTATIONS ROSE, MALAYSIA WOULD ONLY HAVE TO MOVE INTO MORE SOPHISTICATED AND MORE VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS IN ORDER TO EARN MORE.

SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGY COULD BE ACQUIRED +IF WE REALLY WANT TO+, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER, STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE IT WAS MALAYSIA'S AMBITION TO BE AN INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRY, PRODUCTION OF PRIMARY COMMODITIES WOULD NOT STOP.

HE SAID THAT MALAYSIA HAD DONE VERY WELL IN THE SECTOR AND THAT THERE WERE STILL A LOT THAT COULD BE DONE IN THAT FIELD.

HOWEVER, BROAD TRENDS TO THE YEAR 2000 ARE DISCERNIBLE, AND IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE A LOOK AT WHAT THE SCENARIO COULD BE BY THEN. -- MORE

2206MST 03 09 88

0989

U E096 ENG
MAHATHIR - INDUSTRY 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID AS MALAYSIA BEGINS TO MOVE INTO THE RANKS OF THE INDUSTRIALISING COUNTRIES, IT WAS RELEVANT TO DETERMINE WHAT TYPE OF PRODUCT IT WISHED TO PRODUCE.

HE SAID WITH THE SMALL LABOUR FORCE AND PRESENT LEVEL OF RESEARCH, MALAYSIA COULD NOT COMPETE WITH JAPAN, KOREA AND TAIWAN IN THE HIGH END OF TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING.

THE PRIME MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT MALAYSIA NEEDED TO BE A NICHE PLAYER GOING FOR THE HIGH VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS WHICH COULD BE COMPETITIVELY MADE USING ITS NATURAL RESOURCE BASE AND COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES.

HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS WOULD FIND THE RIGHT PRODUCT TO FILL THE RIGHT MARKET NICHE IF THEY WERE GIVEN THE RIGHT INCENTIVES AND ENCOURAGEMENT. -- MORE

2208MST 03 09 88

0990

U E097 ENG
MAHATHIR - INDUSTRY 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT MALAYSIA MUST ALSO NOT FORGET THAT THE WORLD OF THE NEXT MILLENIUM WOULD BE INCREASINGLY A SERVICE-ORIENTED MARKET.

HE SAID IT HAD BEEN ESTIMATED THAT TRAVEL, FOOD AND BEVERAGE, MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE, AND PERSONAL SERVICES WOULD BE GROWING MARKETS RELATIVE TO CONSUMER DURABLES.

+WORLD TRAVEL ALONE IS ESTIMATED TO GROW ANNUALLY BY 3.3 PER CENT UP TO THE YEAR 1995,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRONGLY SUGGESTED FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY, STATING THAT IT WOULD BE A MAJOR FORCE IN THE FUTURE, WITH WORLD TRAVEL ACCOUNTING FOR AT LEAST 15 PER CENT OF WORLD TRADE IN SERVICES BY MID-1990S.

HE SAID THE TOURIST AND SERVICE SECTORS WOULD BE A MAJOR PROVIDER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WOULD ALLOW MALAYSIA PROFITABLY TO PRESERVE AND DISPLAY ITS CULTURE AND HERITAGE. -- MORE

2210MST 05 09 88

0991

U E098 ENG

MAHATHIR - INDUSTRY 5 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID MALAYSIA MANAGED TO SECURE A STRONG ECONOMIC GROWTH LAST YEAR, LIKE WHAT IT HAD ACHIEVED IN THE LATE 1970S, THROUGH HARD WORK AND NOT WITH LOTS OF LUCK AS PUNDITS MAY ARGUE.

+THE LONG TERM PROSPERITY DID NOT DEPEND SO MUCH ON LUCK, BUT ON THE HARD WORK AND RESILIENCE OF THE PEOPLE, AND THE SOUND, BUT TOUGH AND FREQUENTLY UNPOPULAR POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT,+ HE ADDED.

THROUGHOUT THE RECESSION OF 1985/86, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN MANY NECESSARY STEPS, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS +POLITICALLY UNPOPULAR STEPS+, TO PUT THE ECONOMY BACK ONTO A FIRM AND COMPETITIVE FOOTING.

AMONG THE STEPS INCLUDED CUTS IN SOCIAL PROGRESS, SLASHING SUBSIDY PROGRAMMES, REDUCING GROWTH IN CIVIL SERVICE EXPENDITURES AND NON-EXPANSION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE. -- BERNAMA

2211MST 05 09 88