

0544

U E261 AAE  
MAHATHIR-INDUSTRY  
BM

SHAH ALAM, SEPT 12 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY URGED LOCAL ENGINEERS WHO HAVE WIDE EXPERIENCE IN THE MANUFACTURE OF ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS TO JOINTLY SET UP SUCH FACTORIES WITH LOCAL INVESTORS.

THE ELECTRONIC INDUSTRY WAS ONE THAT WAS EXPERIENCING THE MOST RAPID GROWTH AT THE MOMENT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

ITS GROWTH IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR WAS THE HIGHEST, NOT ONLY AMONG THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES BUT ALSO AMONG ALL INDUSTRIES IN THE COUNTRY, HE SAID.

THE EXPORT OF ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS EXCEEDED ONE-THIRD OF THE TOTAL EXPORT OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE WAKO ELECTRONICS (M) FACTORY HERE.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THIS INDUSTRY WAS BEING CONTROLLED BY INVESTMENTS AND MANAGEMENT FROM OVERSEAS, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS WOULD GO INTO JOINT VENTURES WITH FOREIGN INVESTORS IN THIS INDUSTRY. -- MORE

1521MST 12 09 88

0574

U E282 AAE  
MAHATHIR-INDUSTRY 2 KUALA LUMPUR (CORRECTED RPTN, REPLACING THIRD PARA)

HE SAID THAT COUNTRIES LIKE SOUTH KOREA, TAIWAN AND HONG KONG WERE ALREADY CAPABLE OF PRODUCING THEIR OWN MICROCHIPS AND THERE WAS NO REASON WHY MALAYSIA COULD NOT DO SO.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVEN WHATEVER ASSISTANCE THAT WAS APPROPRIATE TO SUCH ENTREPRENEURS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO REMINDED THE LOCAL MANAGERMENTS AND STAFF OF COMPANIES SET UP WITH FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, LIKE WAKO ELECTRONICS (A JAPANESE-MALAYSIAN VENTURE), OF THE ROLE THEY PLAYED IN DRAWING INVESTORS TO MALAYSIA.

+ BESIDES THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF VARIOUS INCENTIVES AND FACILITIES, THE LOCAL MANAGERS AND STAFF HAVE A MEANINGFUL ROLE TO PLAY TO WOO INVESTORS TO THIS COUNTRY,+ HE ADDED.

HE URGED THEM TO WORK HARD TO ENSURE A HIGH LEVEL OF PRODUCTIVITY, ADDING THAT A HIGH PRODUCTIVITY WOULD HELP TO GENERATE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE UNEMPLOYED AS WELL AS PROMOTION OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE ALREADY IN EMPLOYMENT. -- MORE

(END OF CORRECTED RPTN)

1624MST 12 09 88

0568

U E275 AAE  
MAHATHIR-INDUSTRY 3 SHAH ALAM

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SWITCH OF MALAYSIA'S INDUSTRIALISATION TO EXPORT ITEMS WAS APT AS THE COUNTRY NEEDED TO UPGRADE ITS EXPORTS TO BALANCE THE INCREASING IMPORTS.

LAST YEAR, THE EXPORT OF MANUFACTURED GOODS ROSE TO ABOUT 45 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL EXPORTS, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S EMPHASIS ON INDUSTRIALISATION HAD BROUGHT MEANINGFUL BENEFIT TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

+IF IN THE PAST THE AGRICULTURAL, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES SECTORS FORMED THE BACKBONE OF THE EXPORTS AND THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP), NOW THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IS THE BIGGEST IN TERMS OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS AND THE GDP, + HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT HAD MALAYSIA BEEN HESITANT IN IMPLEMENTING ITS INDUSTRIALISATION POLICY, THERE WAS A LIKELIHOOD THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD STILL BE AT THE MERCY OF THE FLUCTUATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET DEMAND FOR ITS PRIMARY COMMODITIES. -- MORE

1612HST 12 09 88

MAHATHIR-INDUSTRI 4 SHAH ALAM

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT WHILE THE ROLE OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR COULD NOT BE IGNORED, THE COUNTRY NEEDED TO UPGRADE FURTHER ITS MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES TO OFFSET THE INSTABILITY OF THE PRICES OF PRIMARY COMMODITIES.

IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT REALISED THAT THE BASE OF THE COUNTRY'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY WAS NOT WIDE AND AS SUCH IT WOULD CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF VARIOUS OTHER INDUSTRIES THAT NOT YET BEEN SET UP OR HAD NOT YET EXPANDED, BESIDES THE ELECTRONIC AND TEXTILE INDUSTRIES.

THESE TWO INDUSTRIES ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT 65 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL EXPORT OF MANUFACTURED GOODS.

THE PRIME MINISTER HOPED THAT THE ELECTRONIC INDUSTRY IN THE COUNTRY WOULD GIVE STRESS TO THE USE OF LOCAL MATERIALS AND THE UPGRADING OF ITS PRODUCTS FROM MERELY SEMICONDUCTORS.

HE ALSO SAID HE WAS PROUD THAT WAKO ELECTRONICS HAD DECIDED TO INVEST HERE, ADDING THAT THE COUNTRY REALISED THAT POLITICAL AND NATIONAL ECONOMIC STABILITY WERE VITAL FACTORS FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN DECIDING ON MAKING THEIR INVESTMENTS.

THE STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY, HE SAID, COULD BE SEEN FROM THE GDP GROWTH OF ABOUT NINE PERCENT IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, A SITUATION SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE 70S AND EARLY 80S. -- MORE

1615HST 12 09 88

0571

U E277 AAE  
MAHATHIR-INDUSTRY 5 SHAH ALAM

THE WAKO ELECTRONICS FACTORY, WHICH PRODUCES ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS, HAS A PAID-UP CAPITAL OF \$9.5 MILLION.

THE FACTORY EMPLOYS ABOUT 300 PEOPLE, MAINLY LOCALS WHO HAVE UNDERGONE TRAINING IN JAPAN.

ITS PRESIDENT, ENCIK YOSUKE YOSHIKO, SAID THE MOVE TO SET UP THE JOINT VENTURE COMPANY HERE WAS MADE AFTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR VISITED ITS HEADQUARTERS IN KASAKA, JAPAN, IN MAY LAST YEAR.

HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD ENCOURAGE OTHER JAPANESE INVESTORS TO CHOOSE MALAYSIA FOR THEIR INVESTMENTS IN VIEW OF THE STABLE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY AND ITS SOUND POLICIES ON INVESTMENT. --

BERNAMA

1618HST 12 09 88