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PASIR GUDANG, SEPT 23, (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE IMPROVED PERFORMANCE OF THE MALAYSIA SHIPYARD AND ENGINEERING (MSE) AND ASKED IT TO LOOK FOR MORE CUSTOMERS FROM THE OPEN MARKET.

IN A LETTER DATED SEPT 13 TO MSE CHAIRMAN HAJI DAUD TAHA, THE PRIME MINISTER CONGRATULATED THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF THE SHIPYARD AS THE MSE HAD BEGUN TO MAKE PROFITS AFTER BEING IN THE RED FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +I AM VERY HAPPY THAT THE MSE HAS MADE A RECOVERY AND IS MAKING PROFITS, PLEASE CONVEY MY THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL SECTIONS, INCLUDING THE WORKERS.+

THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER BY THE PRIME MINISTER WERE READ OUT BY MSE GENERAL MANAGER (CORPORATE PLANNING AND HUMAN RESOURCES) ENCIK YAHYA AHMAD AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT MSE HERE TODAY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IN THE LETTER THAT AT PRESENT, ALL SHIPYARDS IN SINGAPORE WERE MAKING HUGE PROFITS DUE TO INCREASING CONTRACTS FOR REPAIRING SHIPS AND THAT +MSE SHOULD LOOK FOR MORE CUSTOMERS FROM THE OPEN MARKET.+ -- MORE

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THE PRIME MINISTER GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE THE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE TOWARDS FURTHER IMPROVING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE SHIPYARD.

MSE MADE A PROFIT OF \$16.6 MILLION THIS YEAR AND THIS SUCCESS, HE SAID, +SHOWS THAT SUCCESS CAN BE ACHIEVED WITH A GOOD MANAGEMENT AND DEDICATED WORKFORCE.+

ENCIK YAHYA TOLD REPORTERS +MSE HAS MADE A RECOVERY AND IS ON ITS WAY TOWARDS MAKING MORE GAINS.+

MEANWHILE, MSE PROVIDED TRAINING TO 76 UNEMPLOYED GRADUATES UNDER THE MSE GRADUATES TRAINING SCHEME SINCE AUGUST, 1986, AND 621 STUDENTS FROM TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTES IN THE COUNTRY FROM 1977 TO 1987.

ENCIK YAHYA SAID MSE ALSO HELPED UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS THROUGH PRACTICAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES. -- MORE

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HE SAID THAT THE 26 UNEMPLOYED GRADUATES, WHO MADE UP THE FIRST INTAKE, WERE ABSORBED IN VARIOUS POSTS IN MSE ON JAN 1, 1987 AFTER UNDERGOING TRAINING FOR SIX MONTHS.

OF THE 43 MORE GRADUATES TAKEN IN AT THE END OF LAST YEAR, 13 RECEIVED JOB OFFERS AT OTHER PLACES AND WITHDREW FROM THE TRAINING PROGRAMME AND THE OTHERS WERE ABSORBED IN THE MSE.

AT THE BEGINNING OF LAST MAY, SEVEN DIPLOMA IN ENGINEERING HOLDERS WERE RECRUITED TO FULFIL MSE'S MANPOWER NEEDS IN THE FIELDS OF QUALITY CONTROL AND NON-DESTRUCTION TESTS.

MSE ALSO PROVIDED TRAINING TO 11 TRAINEES FROM PETRONAS AFTER WHICH FIVE WERE ABSORBED BACK BY PETRONAS AND ONE FOUND EMPLOYMENT IN ANOTHER ORGANISATION. FIVE OTHERS ARE STILL UNDERGOING A 12-MONTH TRAINING STINT. -- BERNAMA

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