

U 5437 AAE  
PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR

BN

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 11, (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT SENIOR JAPANESE OFFICIALS WERE RECRUITED TO RUN THE PERUSAHAAN OTOMOBIL MALAYSIA (PROTON) AS PART OF EFFORTS TO HELP TRAIN LOCALS IN MANAGEMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE THREE JAPANESE OFFICIALS WOULD MANAGE PROTON FOR A TWO-YEAR PERIOD EFFECTIVE LAST AUGUST.

WE SHOULD NOT BE SHY OF OUR WEAKNESSES IN MANAGEMENT AND IT WILL BE WISER FOR US TO LEARN FROM THOSE WHO ARE MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE, HE SAID WHEN REPLYING TO ENCIK ZUBIR EMBONG (BN-KUALA TERENGGANU) IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT.

HE SAID THAT FOR INSTANCE, SYARIKAT MALAYANATA IN 1976 MADE PROFITS WHEN IT WAS RUN BY THE JAPANESE BUT WHEN THE MANAGEMENT WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE MALAYSIANS, THE COMPANY SUFFERED LOSSES OF MORE THAN \$100 MILLION.

WE TOOK JAPANESE MANAGERS TO RUN PROTON SO THAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THEM ON THE STYLE OF MANAGEMENT AND THIS IS NOT AIMED AT HANDING OVER ALL GOVERNMENT COMPANIES TO THE JAPANESE, HE SAID. -- MORE

1712MST 11 10 88

U 5662 AAE

PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

TO A QUESTION FROM DR TAN SENG SIAM (DAP-KEPONG), THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IN FACT, THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE JAPANESE OFFICIALS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PROTON BEGAN AS FAR BACK AS WHEN THE COMPANY WAS SET UP.

THE LATEST RECRUITMENT OF THE THREE OFFICIALS ONLY INCREASED THE NUMBER OF THE JAPANESE MANAGING PROTON, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT ON THE WHOLE, THERE WERE 17 STAFF FROM THE MITSUBISHI MOTORS CORPORATION (MMC) AND MITSUBISHI CORPORATION OF JAPAN (MC) SERVING IN PROTON FOR THE 1988/89 PERIOD AGAINST 14 IN 1987/88.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE NUMBER OF LOCAL STAFF AT EVERY LEVEL OF MANAGEMENT WAS 125 -- 21 (BUSINESS), 85 (MANUFACTURING) AND 19 (ADMINISTRATION).

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE PROTON BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMPRISING EIGHT REPRESENTATIVES FROM HEAVY INDUSTRIES CORPORATION OF MALAYSIA (HICOM) AND FOUR FROM MMC/MC WAS NOT EXPECTED TO BE EXPANDED. -- MORE

1733MST 11 10 88

U 5664 AAE

PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

TO A QUESTION FROM ENCIK LEE LAN THYE (DAP-ST BINTANG), THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT PROPOSE TO SET UP A TASK FORCE TO STUDY PROTON'S OPERATIONS.

THE STUDY WOULD BE DONE BY PROTON'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, HE SAID.

TO A QUESTION FROM DATUK HAJI ZAKARIA HAJI ABDUL RAHMAN (INDPT-BESUT), THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MITSUBISHI DID NOT PRODUCE A CAR SIMILAR TO THE PROTON SAGA. -- BERNAMA

1734MST 11 10 88