

R 2542 AAE
MAHATHIR-MANUFACTURING

8H

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 7 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WANTS MALAYSIAN MANUFACTURERS TO BE SELF-RELIANT AND NOT TO CLAMOUR FOR GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES IN ORDER TO SUCCEED.

HE SAID GETTING SUBSIDIES FROM THE GOVERNMENT NEED NOT NECESSARILY BENEFIT THEM BECAUSE SUBSIDISED MANUFACTURED ITEMS WOULD BE SUBJECTED TO HIGH IMPORT TAX BY THE IMPORTING COUNTRIES.

OPENING THE KUALA LUMPUR AND BELANGOR CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY TRADE FAIR '88 HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE HIGH IMPORT TAX WOULD ONLY STIFLE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF MALAYSIAN GOODS.

IN THE END, THE IMPORTER COUNTRIES WOULD BE THE ONES TO BENEFIT FROM WHATEVER SUBSIDIES GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO LOCAL MANUFACTURERS.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO WANTS THE PEOPLE TO VENTURE MORE ACTIVELY INTO THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, STRESSING THAT THE COUNTRY COULD NO LONGER DEPEND ON THE PLANTATION SECTOR AND TIN MINING. -- MORE

1429MST 09 12 88

0104

U 2550 AAE

MAHATHIR-MANUFACTURING 2 KUALA LUMPUR (CORRECTED REPETITION)

+ THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON THE CAPACITY OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE SECTOR WAS EXPERIENCING A RAPID GROWTH AND EXPECTED TO RISE EVEN HIGHER IN FUTURE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA HAD THE SKILL AND ABILITY TO PROGRESS IN THE MANUFACTURING FIELD, AND FOREIGN INVESTORS WHO RECOGNISED THIS, HAD TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE FACTOR.

THE PRIME MINISTER URGED MALAYSIANS TO LEARN AND ADOPT FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY GIVEN THE GROWING SOPHISTICATION OF MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY.

ALTHOUGH MANUFACTURERS HAD VENTURED INTO VARIOUS INDUSTRIES, MORE NEW ONES COULD BE TRIED OUT, HE ADDED. -- MORE

1437MST 09 12 88

0109

U 2554 AAE

MAHATHIR-MANUFACTURING 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID MALAYSIA'S INVESTMENT CLIMATE CONTINUED TO REMAIN FAVOURABLE AND IT STILL ENJOYED THE PRIVILEGES UNDER THE GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) COMPARED TO THE NEWLY INDUSTRIALISED NATIONS WHICH HAD SUCH PRIVILEGES WITHDRAWN.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CALLED ON LOCAL MANUFACTURERS TO SET UP JOINT-VENTURE PROJECTS WITH FOREIGN INVESTORS TO ACQUIRE SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE.

HAVING ACQUIRED SUCH SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE, THE PRIME MINISTER WANTS THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY TO BE FULLY CONTROLLED BY MALAYSIANS.

+THIS IS NOT A QUESTION OF PRIDE BUT THE DESIRE TO SEE THAT ALL MALAYSIANS ENJOY ALL THE BENEFITS FROM THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR LATER SPENT MORE THAN AN HOUR VISITING STALLS PUT UP BY THE 134 PARTICIPATING COMPANIES. THE TRADE FAIR WOULD BE ON UNTIL DEC 18. -- BERNAMA

1449MST 09 12 88