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MAHATHIR-FACTORY

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MELAKA, DEC 10 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO SET UP FACTORIES IN KAMPUNGS WHERE PEOPLE WILL SPECIALISE IN HANDICRAFT MAKING, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE FACTORIES WOULD BE RUN BY A COMPANY SUCH AS A KAMPUNG COOPERATIVE COMPANY WHILE THE WORKERS WOULD BE FROM THE KAMPUNG ITSELF AND THEY WOULD HAVE A FIXED TIME FOR WORK AND BE PAID SALARIES.

THE VENTURE WOULD NOT ONLY BE ABLE TO INCREASE THE INCOME OF RURAL FOLK BUT ALSO BRING THEM PROFITS IF THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES OWNED THE COMPANY, HE SAID WHEN VISITING THE AIR KEROH EXPO CENTRE WHERE CELEBRATIONS MARKING THE SILVER JUBILEE OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (KEMAS) ARE BEING HELD.

+THE QUESTION OF HAVING NO TIME IS ACTUALLY NOT A MAJOR PROBLEM, WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS WE WORK CONSISTENTLY, AT LEAST AN HOUR A DAY, AND THIS WILL ENABLE PEOPLE TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN OUR VENTURE,+ HE SAID.

IF THE FOLK INVOLVED IN SUCH VENTURES ADOPTED A COMPLACENT ATTITUDE, THEN PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN BUYING THE THINGS THAT WERE PRODUCED EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE OF GOOD QUALITY.

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1944HST 10 12 88

U 8874 ENG

MAHATHIR-FACTORY 2 MELAKA

+WE SHOULD ALLOT WORK IN THE FACTORY IN A MORE ORDERLY WAY, WORK WITHIN STIPULATED TIME AND IN CASE OF PROFITS THEY SHOULD BE SHARED,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS CONFIDENT THAT HANDICRAFT PRODUCED IN SUCH FACTORIES WOULD NOT FACE PROBLEMS OF MARKETING AS THE GOVERNMENT HAD VARIOUS AGENCIES WHICH COULD SELL THE ITEMS.

DEMAND FOR HANDICRAFT PARTICULARLY FROM OVERSEAS WAS GOOD BUT BUYERS WOULD WANT REGULAR SUPPLIES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

+I AM CONFIDENT KEMAS WILL CONVEY THE GOVERNMENT'S ASPIRATION TO THE PEOPLE AND STRIVE TO SET UP THE FACTORIES IN AN ORGANISED WAY WITH A SMALL AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE,+ HE SAID.

WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS NOT THE BEAUTY OF THE FACTORY BUT SUITABLE WORKING CONDITIONS EVEN A HOUSE WOULD SUFFICE IF IT WAS CONVENIENT FOR THE PEOPLE TO GATHER.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO WANTED SERIOUS ATTENTION TO BE GIVEN TO THE SETTING UP OF ORGANISED KAMPUNGS TO FACILITATE THE CHANNELLING OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE SUCH AS BASIC FACILITIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE.

THE PREMIER ALSO WANTED KEMAS STAFF TO HELP mould PEOPLE'S PERSONALITY BY HOLDING COURSES TO BRING ABOUT AN ATTITUDE WHICH WAS MORE IN LINE WITH THE PRESENT CHALLENGING PERIOD.

+WE WILL BE LEFT BEHIND IF WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO FACE PROBLEMS,+ HE SAID.

-- BERNAMA

1944HST 10 12 88