

UE448 A A E
MAHATHIR-MATERIALISTIC
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, J U L Y 8 (BERNAMA)-- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY IT IS NOT WRONG IF THE PEOPLE ARE MATERIALISTIC TO DEVELOP THEMSELVES SO LONG AS THEY ARE NOT GREEDY OR NEGLECT THE SPIRITUAL ASPECT.

HE SAID BEING MATERIALISTIC WAS ONLY CONSIDERED BAD IF THE PEOPLE BECAME GREEDY IN SEEKING RICHES UNTIL THEY DID NOT CARE ABOUT THE SUFFERINGS OF OTHERS AND DESTROYED THE ENVIRONMENT.

OPENING A TWO-DAY ORIENTATION COURSE FOR SOME 2,000 EMPLOYEES OF THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE HERE, HE SAID: +AS SUCH THE GOVERNMENT STRIVES TO INCREASE THE PEOPLE'S INCOME BECAUSE IF WE ARE TOO POOR OR HARD-PRESSED, EVEN OUR BELIEF IN RELIGION WILL WANE.+

HE SAID SEEKING RICHES IN A +HALAL+ WAY BY TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ENVIRONMENT AND NOT OPPRESSING OTHERS WAS A RESPONSIBILITY THAT COULD NOT BE EQUATED WITH THE MATERIALISTIC CONCEPT.

ACCORDING TO HIM, WHEN PEOPLE BECAME HARD-PRESSED THEY COULD DO THE UNEXPECTED, SUCH AS SELLING HUMAN ORGANS AS HAD HAPPENED IN BANGLADESH WHERE PEOPLE SOLD KIDNEYS TO GET MONEY. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-MATERIALISTIC 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE PEOPLE'S CAPABILITY AND THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING WERE CARRIED OUT BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THIS WAS A WAY TO MAKE THEM COMPLETE HUMAN , BEINGS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT MOVE TO CONCENTRATE ON INDUSTRIAL GROWTH DID NOT MEAN ATTENTION WOULD NOT BE GIVEN TO THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR.

THE GOVERNMENT STILL PAID ATTENTION TO THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AS IT CONSTITUTED THE BASIS FOR ALL GROWTH, HE ADDED.

HE URGED THE MINISTRY EMPLOYEES TO BE MORE ACTIVE IN THEIR ROLE AS AGENTS OF CHANGE SO THAT THOSE IN THIS FIELD COULD PROGRESS ALONGSIDE OTHER SECTORS.

+ALL KNOWLEDGE ON AGRICULTURE WILL BECOME FROZEN AND WASTED IF IT IS NOT PASSED ON TO THE TARGET GROUP, THE FARMERS AND FISHERMEN?+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER! THE AGRICULTURAL WORKERS SHOULD FIRST ORIENTATE THEMSELVES TO ENSURE THEY COULD REALLY BRING CHANGES TO THE TARGET GROUP TO DEVELOP THE RACE AND COUNTRY, HE ADDED.

AS AGENTS OF CHANGE, HE ADDED, THEY SHOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE ATTITUDE OF THE SOCIETY WHICH ONLY WANTED PROGRESS BUT WAS NOT WILLING TO CHANGE THE EXISTING CONDITIONS OF LIVING, -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-MATERIALISTIC 3 KUALA LUMPUR

IF THE PEOPLE WANTED PROGRESS, THEY SHOULD ADOPT A PROGRESSIVE ATTITUDE AND BE PREPARED TO CHANGE THEIR WAY OF LIFE ACCORDING TO THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT, HE SAID.

HE SAID THERE COULD BE NO PROGRESS IF SOCIETY DID NOT WANT TO TRY AND CHANGE THEIR CONDITION OF LIVING AND BE INNOVATIVE.

SOCIETY ACTUALLY PROGRESSED BECAUSE IT WAS CLEVER AT ADAPTING TO CHANGES AND NEEDS, HE SAID, ADDING THAT A PROGRESSIVE RACE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF CHANGES TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVING.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA HAD SO FAR NOT UTILISED THEIR SKILLS TO INVENT BUT ONLY MADE USE OF OTHERS' INVENTIONS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO REMINDED THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY FARMERS AND FISHERMEN, OF THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING THE MASS CONSUMPTION CONCEPT IN PLANNING THEIR OUTPUT IN AN ORGANISED MANNER TO MEET MARKET NEEDS.

AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A BREEDER TO SELL TWO CHICKENS TO A COMPANY DEALING IN FRIED CHICKENS WHICH NEEDED A SUPPLY OF 101000 BIRDS AT THE SAME QUALITY AND SENT ON SCHEDULE. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-MATERIALISTIC 4 KUALA LUMPUR

HE HOPED THE PEOPLE COULD BE SELF-RELIANT AND NOT THINK THAT +IF WE CANNOT OTHERS WILL GIVE+ AS SUCH AN ATTITUDE WOULD EVENTUALLY MAKE THEM WEAK AND LOSE THEIR INTEGRITY.

IN HIS SPEECH EARLIER, AGRICULTURE MINISTER DATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID SAID THE COURSE WAS AIMED AT EXPOSING THE PARTICIPANTS TO NATIONAL POLICIES CONNECTED WITH AGRICULTURAL STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMMES.

PRESENT WERE DEPUTY AGRICULTURE MINISTERS KASSIM AHMAD AND DATUK S. SUBRAMANIAM AND TERENGGANU MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI HAJI WAN MOKHTAR AHAMAD. -- BERNAMA

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