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U E197 AAE  
MAHATHIR-SIRIM  
BM

SHAH ALAM, JULY 25 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT MAY INCREASE THE FINANCIAL ALLOCATION AND NUMBER OF TRAINED PERSONNEL FOR THE STANDARDS AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTION OF MALAYSIA (SIRIM) FOR CARRYING OUT THE NECESSARY RESEARCH FOR THE COUNTRY'S INDUSTRIES.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT IN VIEW OF SIRIM'S INCREASING ROLE, IT NEEDED MORE TRAINED STAFF, ESPECIALLY THOSE HOLDING MASTERS DEGREES IN SPECIFIC FIELDS.

THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL COULD BE INCREASED THROUGH TRAINING AND PROVISION OF CERTAIN POSTS, HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER VISITING THE SIRIM HEADQUARTERS AND THE METAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (MIDEC) HERE.

IT WAS THE PRIME MINISTER'S THIRD VISIT TO SIRIM SINCE 1979 AND HE SAID IT HAD ACHIEVED SATISFACTORY PROGRESS SINCE THEN. HE SAID SIRIM HAD WIDE TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERTISE IN CERTAIN AREAS AND MORE TRAINED PERSONNEL WERE NEEDED TO FURTHER DEVELOP THIS.

+THE GOVERNMENT FEELS THAT THE COUNTRY HAS THE WORKFORCE THAT COULD BE TRAINED IN SPECIFIC FIELDS WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF FOREIGN EXPERTS,+ HE SAID AND EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT FOR HELPING SIRIM IN ITS RESEARCH WORK. -- MORE  
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U E198 AAE  
MAHATHIR-SIRIM 2 SHAH ALAM

HE SAID EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D) ACTIVITIES TO HELP THE NATION'S INDUSTRIALISATION PROCESS.

+WORK DONE ON A TRIAL AND ERROR BASIS WITHOUT PROPER R&D WILL INCUR A LOT OF EXPENSES AND MAY BE A LOSS TO OUR ENTREPRENEURS9 APART FROM SLOWING DOWN THE COUNTRY'S INDUSTRIALISATION PROCESS,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID HIS VISIT TO SIRIM WAS PART OF HIS TOURS OF RESEARCH CENTRES IN THE COUNTRY TO HAVE A CLOSE LOOK AT WORK BEING CARRIED OUT AT THESE PLACES.

HE SAID SUCH VISITS COULD GIVE HIM A BETTER PERSPECTIVE OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRY AND THE SHORTCOMINGS THAT SHOULD BE OVERCOME.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS PROUD OF SIRIM'S ROLE AS THE +INCUBATOR+ OF SMALL INDUSTRIES STRIVING TO ENTER SEVERAL METAL INDUSTRIES, A DEVELOPMENT WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS ENCOURAGING. -- MORE  
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MAHATHIR-SIRIM 3 SHAH ALAM

ANOTHER ACTIVITY WHICH CAUGHT THE PRIME MINISTER'S EYE WAS A PROJECT TO MAKE BOARD FROM PADI ASH, A VENTURE WHICH HE SAID HAD THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME A LOCAL INDUSTRY.

HE STRESSED THAT WHILE THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONTINUING TO PLAY ITS ROLE IN R&D, PRIVATE COMPANIES WERE ALSO BEING ENCOURAGED TO HAVE THEIR OWN R&D FACILITIES. IT IS SIRIM'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THESE LABORATORIES MEET THE STANDARDS SET BY THE INSTITUTE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID SIRIM WOULD CONTINUE TO BE SERVE SMALL INDUSTRIAL ENTREPRENEURS IN R&D AS THEY DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT EQUIPMENT COMPARED WITH BIG COMPANIES.

ON THE POSSIBILITY OF AMENDING THE SIRIM ACT TO STREAMLINE ITS INCREASING ROLE, HE SAID THIS WOULD BE STUDIED IF NECESSARY.

PRESENT AT THE VISIT WHICH LASTED MORE THAN THREE HOURS WERE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTER DATUK AMAR STEPHEN YONG AND HIS DEPUTY, ENCIK LAW HIENG DENG.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS EARLIER BRIEFED BY SIRIM CONTROLLER DR AHMAD TAJUDDIN ALI. ALSO PRESENT AT THE BRIEFING WAS SELANGOR MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI MUHAMMAD HAJI MUHAMMAD TAIB. -- BERNAMA  
1658MST 25 07 89