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MAHATHIR-TECHNOLOGY

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KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 14 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SUGGESTED THAT LOCAL EXPERTS ADOPT THE +REVERSE ENGINEERING+ METHOD, THAT IS COPYING PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED BY OTHERS, TO SIMPLIFY THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.

HE SAID RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS SHOULD HAVE DEPARTMENTS SPECIALISED IN THE METHOD FOR ALL GOODS TO BE MANUFACTURED IN MALAYSIA IN FUTURE.

+WE SHOULD NOT BE ASHAMED OF THE APPROACH AS IT IS A METHOD USED BY MANY COUNTRIES WHICH ARE SUCCESSFUL NOW,+ HE SAID WHEN LAUNCHING THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WEEK HERE.

IF LOCAL EXPERTS COULD LEARN HOW THE PRODUCTS WERE MANUFACTURED MALAYSIA COULD PRODUCE THEM IN A NEW FORM, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE CHEAP LABOUR COSTS IN THE COUNTRY, HE SAID.

+IF AT FIRST WE FAIL, WE PERSEVERE AND GOD WILLING, WE WILL GET RESULTS, FROM THE REVERSE ENGINEERING PROCESS,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-TECHNOLOGY 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THE MECHANISM TO IMPLEMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMMES MUST BE PRO-ACTIVE WITH ATTENTION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD ECONOMY ON THE WHOLE.

IN THIS CONNECTION, SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS SHOULD NOT CONFINE THEIR ACTIVITIES TO TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS BUT SHOULD DEVELOP NEW ONES, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR DESCRIBED AS BASELESS, MISCONCEPTIONS BY THE PEOPLE THAT THE COUNTRY WAS FAR LAGGING BEHIND IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R & D) TO FIND ITS OWN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL APPLICATION METHODS, NOT DISCOVERED BY THE MORE ADVANCED NATIONS.

+ACTUALLY THOSE WHO ARE VERY ADVANCED TODAY, WERE ALSO BACKWARD PREVIOUSLY, BUT BECAUSE OF R & D YEAR BY YEAR, THEY MANAGED TO FIND SUCCESS,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO DREW ATTENTION TO THE LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTION FROM INDUSTRIES OWNED BY LOCALS, WHICH HE SAID WAS STILL VERY SMALL. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-TECHNOLOGY 3 KUALA LUMPUR

+THE MOMENT WE WELCOME TECHNOLOGICAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMY, WE SHOULD ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE TECHNOLOGY IS NOT YET IN OUR HANDS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD SPECIFIED THAT FOREIGN INVESTORS TRANSFER THEIR TECHNOLOGY TO LOCAL MANPOWER AND MANAGEMENT, ADDING THAT THESE EFFORTS WOULD FAIL IF THE LOCAL PEOPLE WERE NOT READY AND COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE BASICS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE THE PROCESS A SUCCESS.

HE OUTLINED THREE VITAL FACTORS TO ENSURE THE COUNTRY'S SUCCESS IN DEVELOPING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THEY ARE:

+WILLINGNESS IN TERMS OF ATTITUDE AND KNOW-HOW OF SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS IN CONTRIBUTING PARTICULARLY IN R & D,

+THE GOVERNMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURE, POLICY AND PROGRAMMES TO SUPPORT THESE ASPIRATIONS, AND

+WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF ENTREPRENEURS TO USE THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL FINDINGS TO VENTURE INTO NEW INDUSTRIES AND TO TAKE RISKS. --MORE

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MAHATHIR-TECHNOLOGY 4 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THESE FACTORS SHOULD BE CO-ORDINATED TO FORM A FORCE CAPABLE OF DEVELOPING THE COUNTRY.

ON THIS BASIS, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO CALLED ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO BE INVOLVED IN R \$ D IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY! WITH THE HOPE THAT AT LEAST 25 PERCENT OF FUTURE R \$ D PROGRAMMES IN THE COUNTRY WERE CONDUCTED AND FUNDED BY THIS SECTOR.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR COULD CONDUCT R \$ D WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF GOVERNMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND THE CAMPUSES OR THROUGH RESEARCH CONTRACTS WITH RESEARCHERS FROM SUCH INSTITUTIONS, HE SAID.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED HOPE THAT RESEARCHERS IN THIS FIELD DIRECTED THEIR RESEARCH TOWAS THE NEEDS OF THE INDUSTRY AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

+IT IS USELESS FOR US TO SPEND MILLIONS OF RINGGIT ON RESEARCH IF ITS FINDINGS CANNOT BE USED BY THE PEOPLE AND COUNTRY,+ HE ADDED.
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MAHATHIR-TECHNOLOGY 5 KUALA LUMPUR

HE LATER TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THE ISSUE OF INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT DID NOT ARISE IF THE COUNTRY ADOPTED REVERSE ENGINEERING TO FACILITATE THE PROCESS OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.

COPYING PRODUCTS ALREADY IN THE MARKET WAS COMMON PRACTICE AMONG OTHER PEOPLE, TOO, HE SAID.

MORE IMPORTANT WAS THAT LOCAL EXPERTS WORKED TO PRODUCE ALMOST SIMILAR PRODUCTS USING LOCAL INPUT, BUT CHANGING THE PRODUCT'S IDENTITY, HE SAID.

COMMENTING ON PRODUCTS ON EXHIBIT FOR THE EVENT AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE, HE LAUDED THE WORK OF SOME SCIENTISTS WHO INVENTED GOODS WITH MARKET POTENTIAL.

HOWEVER, IT WAS LEFT TO THE ENTREPRENEURS TO CAPITALISE ON THE OPPORTUNITY TO MARKET THE INVENTIONS LOCALLY AND ABROAD, HE SAID. --
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