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MAHATHIR-SKILLS
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KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 5 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT THE COUNTRY NEEDED MORE BLUE-COLLAR SKILLED WORKERS AS WELL AS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY GRADUATES TO ACHIEVE ITS ASPIRATIONS TO BECOME A DEVELOPED INDUSTRIALISED NATION.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE PRIME MINISTER ADVISED STUDENTS TO CHOOSE TRAINING FIELDS, EITHER ACADEMIC OR SKILLS, TO SUPPORT THE INDUSTRIALISATION EFFORTS.

ALTHOUGH SUCH TRAINING OR EDUCATION WERE NOT SIMPLE COMPARED WITH OTHER FIELDS, IT COULD GUARANTEE EMPLOYMENT, HE SAID WHEN CLOSING THE NATIONAL SKILLED TRADE WORKERS COMPETITION AT CHANGKAT PAVILION HERE.

HE SAID THE COUNTRY LACKED SUFFICIENT TRAINED MANPOWER IN THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FIELDS.

FOR INSTANCE, HE SAID, THE COUNTRY WAS SHORT OF 11,000 CHEMICAL ENGINEERS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE INDUSTRY. -- MORE
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R E594 ENG
MAHATHIR-SKILLS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE ADVISED EMPLOYERS TO SHED THE ATTITUDE THAT BLUE-COLLAR WORKERS WERE OF LITTLE VALUE AND TO TREAT THEM BETTER.

+WE HOPE THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL ASSESS, IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT, THESE BLUE COLLAR WORKERS,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIAN WORKERS WOULD BE CAPABLE OF MANUFACTURING ANY PRODUCT IF THEY WERE GIVEN PROPER GUIDANCE FROM ALL THE RELATED GROUPS.

WHAT THE SKILLED WORKERS IN THE COUNTRY NEEDED WAS COURAGE, DISCIPLINE AND THE ABILITY TO COUNTER NEGATIVE INFLUENCES, HE POINTED OUT.

HE STRESSED THAT ONE REASON WHY MOST OF THE SOUTH COUNTRIES CONTINUED TO LAG BEHIND WAS THE LACK OF ABILITY OR SKILLS AMONG THEIR PEOPLES WHO WERE NOT WILLING TO LEARN.

DATUK SERI MAHATHIR PRESENTED PRIZES TO THE WINNERS OF THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES IN THE TWO-DAY CONTEST. TRAINEES FROM SKILLS CENTRES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TOOK PART. -- BERNAMA
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