

U E097 ENG MES
MAHATHIR-UNEMPLOYMENT
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KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 17 (BERNAMA) -- THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT CAN
WIPE OUT UNEMPLOYMENT IN **THE COUNTRY WITHIN** HE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS,
PRIME MINISTER **DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID** TODAY.

HE SAID **CURRENT UNEMPLOYMENT** RATE OF SEVEN PER CENT COULD BE
REDUCED TO ABOUT THREE PER CENT NEXT YEAR.

IN THIS CONNECTION HE CALLED ON THE PEOPLE TO WORK HAND IN HAND
WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN ENSURING STABILITY IN THE COUNTRY, AN
IMPORTANT PREREQUISITE TOWARDS REALISING THE OBJECTIVE.

IN ENSURING UNEMPLOYMENT, THE **GOVERNMENT** WOULD GO ALL OUT
IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL **LABOUR** POLICY AIMED AT PROVIDING SUFFICIENT
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO THE **PEOPLE**, HE SAID WHEN ADDRESSING
ABOUT 101000 PEOPLE DURING A VISIT TO THE **BUKIT** +C+ KAMPUNG KERINCI
HOUSING AREA HERE.

HE SAID FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN THE COUNTRY WERE EXPECTED TO
INCREASE IN YEARS AHEAD AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO ATTRACT
MORE INVESTORS TO THE **COUNTRY**. -- MORE.

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MORE INVESTMENTS MEANT MORE
EMPLOYMENT **OPPORTUNITIES** FOR THE PEOPLE.

+THE GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO ERADICATE UNEMPLOYMENT WOULD BE
DIFFICULT TO REALISE IF THERE IS NOT COOPERATION FROM THE PEOPLE,+
HE SAID.

HE SAID **IT WAS** THEREFORE VITAL FOR THE PEOPLE NOT ONLY TO BE
PATIENT IN FACING THEIR VARIOUS SHORTCOMINGS **BUT** TO PRESERVE
EXISTING PEACE AND TRANQUILITY IN THE COUNTRY.

THE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT RESORT TO NEGATIVE ACTION SUCH AS ON
STRIKE BECAUSE IT COULD HAVE **ADVERSED** EFFECT ON EFFORTS TO WOO
FOREIGN INVESTORS,

+WHEN THIS HAPPENS, INVESTORS WILL LOOK FOR OTHER COUNTRIES
WHICH ARE MORE STABLE AND IT **WILL NOT BE** OF **BENEFIT** TO THE **PEOPLE**,+
HE SAID. -- MORE.

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HE SAID MALAYSIAN WORKERS WOULD HAVE THE CHANCE TO IMPROVE THEIR
STANDARD OF **LIVING** IF THERE WAS ACTIVE FOREIGN INVESTMENTS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO HIT OUT AT MALAYSIAN TRADES UNION
CONGRESS (**MTUC**) LEADERS FOR COLLABORATING WITH CERTAIN QUARTERS IN
THE UNITED STATES TO DENY MALAYSIA FURTHER GENERALISED SYSTEM OF
PREFERENCES (**GSP**) **PRIVILEGES**.

THE HTUC LEADERS, WHO WERE ALSO **IMPORTANT OFFICIALS** IN THE
OPPOSITION PART **SEMANGAT** 46 AND DAP, HAD BY THEIR ACTION SABOTAGE
THE LIVELIHOOD OF THOUSANDS OF WORKERS IN THE COUNTRY? HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO THE PRIME **MINISTER**, THE ACTION COULD RESULT IN SOME
130,000 ELECTRONIC WORKERS IN THE COUNTRY LOSING THEIR JOBS.

THE VISIT WAS PART OF DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S NATION-WIDE TOUR
TO BRIEF **UMNO** MEMBERS ON ACCUSATIONS MADE BY THE OPPOSITION IN
PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS
WIFE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR **SITI HASMAH ALI**. -- **BERNAMA**.

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