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MAHATHIR-INDUSTRY  
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NIBONG TEBAL, JUNE 24, (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI-DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT MALAYSIA, WHICH IS ON THE ROAD TO INDUSTRIALISATION, REQUIRES MORE SKILLED AND EFFICIENT WORKERS. THE COUNTRY REQUIRED SKILLED WORKERS TO PRODUCE EXPORT-ORIENTED MANUFACTURED GOODS AND HELP ENHANCE NATIONAL INCOME, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHEN OPENING THE \$23 MILLION SEKOLAH MENENGAH VOKASIONAL NIBONG TEBAL HERE.

+MALAYSIA HAS TO DEPEND MORE ON MANUFACTURED GOODS FOR EXPORT BECAUSE OF THE PRICE FLUCTUATION OF PRIMARY COMMODITIES, LIKE NATURAL RUBBER AND OIL PALM, HE SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO MAKE MALAYSIA A DEVELOPED COUNTRY, LIKE JAPAN, WHICH WILL BE RESPECTED BY THE WORLD, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THIS WAS NO EASY TASK.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT A NATION WHICH RELIED ONLY ON PRIMARY COMMODITIES WOULD NOT ACHIEVE GREAT PROGRESS. -- MORE  
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+THROUGH THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIALISATION POLICY, MANY MANUFACTURING PLANTS HAD BEEN SET UP, WHICH NOT ONLY OFFERED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES BUT ALSO STEPPED UP NATIONAL INCOME, HE SAID.

+FORMERLY, NO MALAYSIAN GOODS WERE EXPORTED BUT NOW WHEN WE GO OVERSEAS, MALAYSIANS CAN SEE SOME OF THE PRODUCTS MADE BY THEIR OWN COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE PROTON SAGA, COMPUTER SETS AND MICRO-CHIPS.

+WE SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE MALAYSIAN PRODUCTS, HE SAID, ADDING THAT PROTON WORKERS WERE AS SKILLED AS THEIR JAPANESE COUNTERPARTS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT AS THE NATION BECAME MORE AND MORE INDUSTRIALISED, SKILLED MANPOWER WAS IN BIG DEMAND AND THIS REQUIRED GREATER STRESS ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION. -- BERNAMA  
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