

MAHATHIR - PLEDGE- (REPETITION)

BY ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN

BM

SEOUL, SEPT 12 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS PLEDGED TO CONTINUE TO STRIVE HARD TO DEVELOP MALAYSIA TO A LEVEL EQUAL TO THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ALTHOUGH HE MIGHT NOT LIVE TO SEE THE FRUITS OF HIS LABOUR DURING HIS LIFETIME. *Oversea trips.*

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE REALISED THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE ANY EASY THING TO DO IN A SHORT SPACE OF TIME BUT IF EVERYONE WORKED HARD, IN TIME, THE AIM WOULD BE ACHIEVED.

+WE DO NOT POSSESS MAGICAL POWERS BUT IF WE ALL WORK HARD WE WILL SUCCEED, IF NOT IN 20 YEARS, THEN IN 30 OR 40 YEARS,+ HE ADDED IN AN IMPROMPTU SPEECH AT A DINNER HOSTED BY THE MALAYSIAN EMBASSY HERE LAST NIGHT IN HONOUR OF HIS VISIT TO SOUTH KOREA.

ABOUT 250 MALAYSIANS, INCLUDING 86 TRAINEES AND 13 OFFICERS SENT HERE UNDER MALAYSIA'S +LOOK EAST+ POLICY ATTENDED THE DINNER HELD AT THE SHILLA HOTEL. -- MORE

1321MST 12 09 90

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R E407 AAE
MAHATHIR - PLEDGE 2 SEOUL

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS FOR ALL MALAYSIANS, ESPECIALLY THE YOUNGER PEOPLE, TO STRIVE THEIR UTMOST IN WHATEVER FIELD OF ENDEAVOUR.

HE ADDED: +WE MUST GO AND THINK BIG. BUT, THIS DOES NOT MEAN BORROWING LARGE SUMS OF MONEY FROM THE BANKS AND USING IT TO BUY BIG CARS.

+WHAT I MEAN IS WE MUST BE WILLING TO TAKE RISKS THAT MAY BE HIGH IN WHATEVER ENDEAVOUR IN ORDER TO OBTAIN HIGH RETURNS.+

HE CITED THE PROTON SAGA NATIONAL CAR PROJECT AND PROJECTS OF THE HEAVY INDUSTRIES CORPORATION OF MALAYSIA (HICOM) WHICH INVOLVED HIGH EXPENDITURE AND RISKS WHICH NOW PROVED TO BE A BIG SUCCESS.

HE SAID: +I STILL RECALL THAT WHEN THE PROJECT WAS FIRST LAUNCHED, WE WERE CRITICISED AND RIDICULED.

+BUT, WE PROCEEDED BECAUSE WE WERE CONFIDENT THAT WE COULD SUCCEED. NOW, IT HAS BEEN PROVEN THAT WE HAVE SUCCEEDED.+ -- MORE
1328MST 12 09 90

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R E409 AAE
MAHATHIR - PLEDGE 3 SEOUL

+WHAT OTHERS CAN DO, WE TOO CAN DO,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE SUCCESS HAD STRENGTHENED HIS RESOLVE TO CONTINUE TO STRIVE ALTHOUGH HE MIGHT NOT SEE THE RESULTS OF SUCCESS BECAUSE OF MAN'S LIMITED AGE.

HE ADDED: +I AM ALREADY 65 YEARS OLD. EVEN IF I LIVE LONG, I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TASTE THE FRUITS OF OUR EFFORTS NOW. BUT THIS WILL NOT WEAKEN MY SPIRIT.

+IT WILL BE TOO SELFISH IF WE ONLY DID SOMETHING IN ORDER TO ENJOY THE BENEFITS.

+WHAT WE DO NOW IS FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRAND CHILDREN LATER ON.+

HE REMINDED MALAYSIANS OF THE SUCCESS ACHIEVED BY THE COUNTRY OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS -- SUCCESS NO ONE EVEN THOUGHT POSSIBLE.

THIS SHOWED THAT THE EFFORTS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT SO FAR HAVE BEEN RIGHT, HE SAID.

HE THEN ADVISED MALAYSIANS IN SOUTH KOREA TO EMULATE THE GOOD EXAMPLES AND WORK ETHICS LEARNED FROM ITS PEOPLE WHEN THEY RETURNED HOME.

+SOUTH KOREANS, LIKE THE JAPANESE, ARE A GOOD EXAMPLE OF A PEOPLE WHO THINK BIG,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

280

R E410 AAE
MAHATHIR - PLEDGE 4 SEOUL

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO VISITED SOUTH KOREA TWICE BEFORE BECOMING PRIME MINISTER AND TWICE AFTER THAT, INCLUDING THE PRESENT VISIT, SAID HE COULD SEE THE CHANGES AND PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY THAT COUNTRY OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS.

HE ADDED: +I FIRST CAME HERE IN 1965. AT THAT TIME, SOUTH KOREA WAS A POOR COUNTRY, EVEN POORER THAN US AND ITS MAIN PRODUCE WAS RICE.

+IN 1977, I CAME HERE AGAIN. THEN, THEY WERE BEGINNING TO SHIFT THEIR ATTENTION TO THE INDUSTRIAL FIELD AND IN 1983 WHEN I VISITED AGAIN, THEIR EFFORTS IN INDUSTRIALISATION WAS BEGINNING TO SHOW SUCCESS.

+AT THAT TIME, THE SOUTH KOREAN CAR MANUFACTURER, HYUNDAI MOTORS, WAS PRODUCING 300,000 UNITS A YEAR.

+I ASKED THEM WHY THEY PRODUCED SO MUCH BECAUSE THE DOMESTIC MARKET AT THAT TIME WAS STILL SMALL. THEY TOLD ME THAT THEY WERE PRODUCING FOR EXPORT. THIS SHOWED THEY HAD THE COURAGE TO TAKE RISKS.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THIS COURAGE AND THE CONTINUING EFFORTS OF THE SOUTH KOREANS HAD BROUGHT THEM GOOD RETURNS.

SOUTH KOREA WAS NOW ABLE TO COMPETE WITH JAPAN IN CERTAIN FIELDS AND IT HAS EVEN BECOME THE LARGEST PRODUCER OF MICRO-WAVE OVENS IN THE WORLD. -- BERNAMA

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