

D759

R E015 AAE
MAHATHIR-ASIAN

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 5 (BERNAMA) -- SOME DEVELOPED NATIONS ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO KEEP ASIAN COUNTRIES AT BAY OUT OF FEAR THAT THESE COUNTRIES COULD ONE DAY BECOME THEIR COMPETITORS, PRIME MINISTER DATUK DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE DEVELOPED NATIONS CONSTANTLY HURLED ACCUSATIONS AT ASIAN COUNTRIES BY SAYING THAT THEIR ECONOMIES BENEFITED FROM LESS THAN ACCEPTABLE PRACTICES.

AMONG THE ACCUSATIONS MADE AGAINST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE THAT THEY DENIED HUMAN AND WORKERS' RIGHTS, HAD UNDEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS AND DISREGARDED THE ENVIRONMENT, HE SAID IN HIS KEY-NOTE ADDRESS AT THE 17TH ASIAN ADVERTISING CONGRESS AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE HERE.

+THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT ASIAN COUNTRIES HAVE SAVED, INVESTED AND TAKEN ENTREPRENEURIAL RISKS WHILE OTHERS HAVE LOST MUCH OF THEIR WILL TO DO SO,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT COUNTRIES OF DEVELOPING ASIA WERE CONSTANTLY SEEKING TO MASTER THE PRODUCTION OF GOODS AND SERVICES IN DEMAND BY THE WORLD AND TO IMPROVE THE TECHNOLOGIES. -- MORE
2129MST 05 11 90

D762

R E018 AAE
MAHATHIR - ASIAN 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID: +THIS CONTRASTS WITH THE ALMOST INSANE URGE OF SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO CONSUME FAR BEYOND WHAT THEY CAN REASONABLY AFFORD AND TO SPEND ENORMOUS SUMS OF MONEY TO HONE THEIR TECHNOLOGIES FOR WAR RATHER THAN PEACE.

+WHEREAS, THE RAPIDLY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES PAY HEED TO THE IMPERATIVES OF DEVELOPMENT, THE NEED FOR METICULOUS PLANNING AND CAREFUL ECONOMIC POLICIES WHILE OTHERS HAVE THROWN THEM TO THE WINDS.+

HE ADDED THAT TO MOST OF THE WESTERN WORLD, ASIAN COUNTRIES WERE STILL THE TYPICAL MISMANAGED, GROSSLY CORRUPT, UNDEMOCRATIC NATIONS AND QUITE INCAPABLE OF MAKING PROGRESS.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THEY DO MAKE PROGRESS, THEY ARE LIKELY TO BECOME THE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY THREATS TO WESTERN DOMINATION.

+IN ACTUAL FACT, ASIAN NATIONS ARE MERELY DESIROUS OF PROGRESS IN THE WESTERN SENSE AND WISH TO HAVE THEIR SHARE OF PROSPERITY,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
2134MST 05 11 90

D764

R E019 AAE
MAHATHIR - ASIAN 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID SOME COUNTRIES LIKE JAPAN HAD BECOME THE ENGINES OF GROWTH FOR OTHER ASPIRING ASIAN ECONOMIES WHILE OTHER PROSPERING ECONOMIES WERE ALSO CONTRIBUTING TANGIBLY TO THE REGION'S AND THE WORLD'S PROSPERITY.

+THEY, ALONG WITH ASEAN ECONOMIES, ARE NOT, HOWEVER, TAKING THEIR SUCCESS FOR GRANTED. THEY ARE CONTINUING TO THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT WHERE TO INVEST SCARCE RESOURCES, SEEKING OUT STRATEGIC HIGH-GROWTH AREAS THAT CAN PROPEL THEM INTO THE FUTURE,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID ASIA WAS EXPECTED TO GROW FASTER THAN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND THIS LED MANY ANALYSTS TO BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD MATCH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND NORTH AMERICA AS A MARKET PLACE IN THE 1990S.

+ASIA HAS BEEN SHIELDED FROM THE EYES OF WESTERNERS FOR SO LONG THAT WHEN STATEMENTS ABOUT ASIA BECOMING THE +MEGA-MARKET OF THE 1990S+ ARE MADE, IT SOUNDS HARDLY CREDIBLE,+ HE ADDED.

ALTHOUGH THE PER CAPITA WAS SMALL, THE SIZE OF THE POPULATION IMPLIED SUBSTANTIAL PURCHASING POWER FOR AFFORDABLE ITEMS, HE SAID, ADDING THAT ASIA, AS A MEGA-MARKET OF THE 1990S, WAS NO EMPTY STATEMENT. -- MORE

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R E020 AAE
MAHATHIR - ASIAN 4 KUALA LUMPUR

HE ALSO SAID THAT ASIA HAD BECOME SELF-GENERATING IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AS MORE AND MORE INVESTMENTS ORIGINATE FROM ASIAN COUNTRIES.

+AS ASIAN COUNTRIES SUPPORT EACH OTHER'S GROWTH, THEY WILL BECOME THEIR OWN MARKET AS MUCH AS THEY WILL BE THE WORLD'S MARKET,+ HE ADDED.

BY THE YEAR 2000, HE SAID, IT WAS PREDICTED THAT ASIA'S GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT, INCLUDING THAT OF JAPAN, WOULD EXCEED THAT OF THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA'S ECONOMY GROWTH COULD BE EXPECTED TO AVERAGE BETWEEN SEVEN AND EIGHT PER CENT OVER THE MEDIUM-TERM.

WHILE PRODUCTS SUCH AS SEMI-CONDUCTORS AND TEXTILES WOULD REMAIN IMPORTANT ITEMS, THERE WOULD BE EXTENSIVE DIVERSIFICATION TO NEWER PRODUCTS, HE ADDED.

TURNING TO ADVERTISING, HE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT ETHICAL CODES BE MAINTAINED BY THOSE IN THE INDUSTRY. -- BERNAMA

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