

29 AUG 2000

MAHATHIR-GLOBALISATION

HAVE A FORUM TO INTERPRET GLOBALISATION, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 29 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the international community should have a forum to discuss the meaning of globalisation.

He said that in this respect all nations, rich or poor, must be involved in the interpretation of globalisation.

To-date, there is no such forum to discuss the issue, but people had been told that globalisation must come, he said during a question and answer session at the Central Banks conference here today.

For now, Dr Mahathir said the stress on globalisation is "the free movement of capital and investment."

However, this interpretation was one-sided as it reflected the rich getting into the poor countries, he said.

And since the interpretation was initiated by the rich, it was done in such a way that it would benefit them, Dr Mahathir added.

As such, Dr Mahathir said all must be involved in the interpretation of globalisation.

He suggested that the issue be discussed calmly, taking into consideration the strengths and weaknesses of all nations.

Dr Mahathir said that poor nations could not compete in hi-tech industries or invest in them but they could share the skills and knowledge of the rich nations.

During the session, the Prime Minister was also asked on the need to attract foreign investments.

He replied that in the earlier days, these were done to create jobs for Malaysians but now, there was a need to upgrade Malaysian workers to produce value-added goods.

That was why the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) was created, to train people to come out with such value-added products, he said.

He said that the National Information Technology Council (NITC) meeting yesterday had indicated that it had exceeded its target to have 50 world-class companies for the MSC by 2003.

To-date it already has 37.

The MSC has also targetted to have 500 small and medium companies operating within the corridor by 2003.

There is already 370 such companies now, Dr Mahathir said. -- BERNAMA  
SHO FR