

SENATE-DEBATE

1973

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KUALA LUMPUR, FEB. 13 (BERNAMA)--SENATOR DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED TODAY URGED LESS SECRECY OVER YEARLY TAX PLANS. SPEAKING DURING THE DEBATE ON DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE AT THE SENATE, HE SAID THAT TAX INCREASES SHOULD BE HINTED TO THE PEOPLE BEFORE THEY WERE IMPLEMENTED.

THIS WOULD ENABLE THE PEOPLE TO VOICE THEIR OPINION. IF POSSIBLE, DR. MAHATHIR SAID, TAXES SHOULD BE RAISED ONLY ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS SO THAT BUSINESSMEN COULD FIND NEW SOURCES OF REVENUE TO MEET THE INCREASE. --BERNAMA MORE 1900/NB

SENATE-DEBATE 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THAT YEARLY TAX INCREASES SHOULD NOT BE THE RULE AS IT WOULD LEAD TO A RISE IN THE COST OF LIVING. IT WOULD ALSO BADLY AFFECT EXPORT OF MADE-IN-MALAYSIA GOODS. FURTHER, TAX INCREASES WOULD GIVE EXCUSES FOR WORKERS TO ASK FOR MORE HIGHER WAGES.

MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE WERE ALREADY PAYING THE HIGHEST WAGES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA.

IF THE WORKERS DEMAND EVEN HIGHER WAGES, FACTORY PRODUCTION WOULD BE BADLY HIT. --BERNAMA MORE 1904/NB

SENATE-DEBATE 3 KUALA LUMPUR

SENATOR SHAARI URGED THAT SCHOOLS IN RURAL AREAS BE PROVIDED WITH RADIOS TO FOLLOW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES.

HE ALSO URGED SALARY INCREASES FOR TEACHERS AND SUPERVISORS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CLASSES.

SENATOR DASIMAH AID THAT MORE OLD FOLK HOMES SHOULD BE SET UP AS THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE SERVICES HAD BEEN ALLOCATED ABOUT \$12 MILLION THIS YEAR.

HE SUGGESTED THAT STATE GOVERNMENTS BE GIVEN ALLOCATIONS TO BUY BOOKS FOR NEEDY PUPILS.

SENATOR DATUK MANSOR MAHMUD REGRETTED THAT NO LARGE PROJECTS LIKE THE KAUNTAN PORT HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT IN TRENGGANU --BERNAMA MORE 1914/NB

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HE HOPED THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE STUDIED SO THAT ALL STATES WERE DEVELOPED ON THE SAME LEVEL.

ON TEXT BOOK LISTS ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, HE HOPED THEY COULD BE MADE KNOWN IN OCTOBER OF EVERY YEAR AT THE LATEST.

THIS WOULD ENABLE PUBLISHERS SUFFICIENT TIME TO PREPARE THE BOOKS REQUIRED.---BERNAMA MORE 1927/NB

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SENATOR ABDUL SAMAD OSMAN URGED THAT RE-AFORESTATION PROGRAMMES BE INITIATED TO ENSURE FUTURE TIMBER SUPPLIES.

HE SAID THAT LARGE SCALE EXPLOITATION OF TIMBER FROM THE FORESTS COULD CREATE A SHORTAGE LATER.

ALSO, IT COULD RISE TO SOIL EROSION AND SUBSEQUENT FLOODING DUE TO SILTED RIVERS.

URGING THAT THE ALLOWANCES OF SENATORS AND MPS BE INCREASED, HE SAID THAT THEY COULD ONLY CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES EFFICIENTLY IF THEY HAD NO FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.

HE, HOWEVER, MADE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN +FULL-TIME+ MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LIKE HIMSELF AND THOSE WHO HELD OCCUPATIONS OUTSIDE THE HOUSE.

SENATOR CHUA CHIN CHENG URGED CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL-TYPE SCHOOLS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE RURAL AREAS.---BERNAMA MORE 1930/NB

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HE SAID THAT THERE WERE FEW NATIONAL-TYPE SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE RURAL AREAS.

HE ADDED THAT HIGH SCHOOL FEES IN SUCH SCHOOLS WERE CONTRIBUTING TO THE DROP-OUT PROBLEM.

SENATOR CHUA SUGGESTED LAWS BE INTRODUCED TO PREVENT THE SALE OF SHARES OWNED BY MALAYSIAN TO FOREIGNERS AND THOSE OWNED BY BUMIPUTRAS TO NON-BUMIPUTRAS.

SENATOR DATUK NIK HASSAN SAID THAT IT WAS NOW THE THIRD YEAR OF THE SECOND MALAYSIA PLAN AND A REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS SO FAR WAS NECESSARY.

HE WILL RESUME HIS SPEECH TOMORROW AFTERNOON.---BERNAMA 1932/NB