

MAHATHIR
BM

1974

IPOH, SEPT. 13 (BERNAMA) — EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED PLEDGED TODAY TO TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE SET-UP OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS, ESPECIALLY IN THE RURAL AREAS, AND MAKE SURE THAT THEY HAVE ADEQUATE FACILITIES.

THESE MEASURES ARE TO CHECK THE DROP-OUT PROBLEM, HE SAID, ADDING THAT PRIMARY SCHOOLING SHOULD PROVIDE PUPILS WITH A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION.

SPEAKING AT THE SPEECH AND PRIZE GIVING DAY OF THE SEKOLAH MENENGAH JENIS KEBANGSAAN RAJA PEREMPUAN HERE, HE SAID A REPORT RECENTLY SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT SHOWED THAT THE MAJORITY OF DROP-OUTS WERE FROM SCHOOLS IN THE RURAL AREAS.

BESIDES POVERTY AND LACK OF FACILITIES, THE DROP-OUT PROBLEM WAS DUE TO LACK OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND THE ATTITUDE OF TEACHERS TOWARDS PUPILS. — BERNAMA MORE 1537/ZCM

51:
MAHATHIR 2 IPOH

DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD VISIT SCHOOLS WITH INADEQUATE FACILITIES TO BE BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH THE SITUATION.

HE PLEDGED THAT HE WOULD ALSO FOLLOW CLOSELY THE PROGRESS OF SCHOOLS WHICH WERE EQUIPPED WITH MODERN FACILITIES.

ALTHOUGH HE WOULD VISIT THESE SCHOOLS LESS OFTEN THAN HE WOULD THOSE IN THE OUTLYING AREAS, HE WOULD CHECK ON THEIR PROGRESS BY STUDYING EXAMINATION AND OTHER REPORTS SUBMITTED BY SCHOOL SUPERVISORS AND ADMINISTRATORS.

+IF THIS IS NOT ENOUGH, IA AND OFFICERS OF MY MINISTRY WILL ASK FOR OTHER REPORTS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID STUDENTS IN FULLY EQUIPPED SCHOOLS MUST WORK HARD TO JUSTIFY THE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS SPENT ON THEM. — BERNAMA MORE 1540/ZCM

52:
MAHATHIR 3 IPOH

DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS GIVING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION TO BOYS AND GIRLS BECAUSE IT BELIEVED THAT AN EDUCATED CITIZENRY COULD ENSURE NATIONAL PROSPERITY AND SECURITY.

HE SAID SCHOOLGIRLS SHOULD ALSO GIVE EQUAL EMPHASIS TO THE STUDY OF DOMESTIC SCIENCE AND RELIGIOUS RELIGION.

THIS WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE THEY WOULD ONE DAY BE MOTHERS WITH RESPONSIBILITIES TO HOME AND FAMILY. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THEY WOULD HAVE TO GIVE PROPER GUIDANCE TO THEIR CHILDREN.

DR. MAHATHIR URGED SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS TO BE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH LOCAL LEADERS. — BERNAMA 1542/ZCM