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KOTA BAHRU, SEPT. 29 (BERNAMA) -- EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED HAS DIRECTED THAT THE TRAINING FOR TEMPORARY TEACHERS BE SPEEDED UP AND MORE PLACES BE PROVIDED FOR THEM. HE SAID THE DIRECTIVE WAS MADE TO HELP OVERCOME THE SHORTAGE OF TRAINED TEACHERS WHOSE PLACES WERE BEING FILLED BY TEMPORARY TEACHERS.

DR MAHATHIR TOLD REPORTERS HERE TODAY AFTER A TWO-DAY VISIT TO KELANTAN THAT AT PRESENT THERE WERE ABOUT 12,000 TEMPORARY TEACHERS, INCLUDING 748 IN KELANTAN.

HE SAID PLACES SUCH AS VACANT SCHOOL BUILDINGS, WOULD BE USED TO TRAIN TEACHERS, IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT SHORTAGE OF SPACE.

HOWEVER, NECESSARY INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE SUITABILITY OF THE PLACE, AVAILABILITY OF LECTURERS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BEFORE THE SCHEME COULD BE IMPLEMENTED. -- BERNAMA MORE 1602/A1

#### EDUCATION 2 KOTA BHARU

DR MAHATHIR ALSO DISCLOSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT PLAN TO HAVE NEW BUILDINGS FOR SCHOOLS IN THE ISOLATED PARTS OF THE STATE WHICH ORIGINATED AS PUBLICS SCHOOL.

HE SAID ABOUT 150 SUCH SCHOOLS IN THE STATE HAD BEEN TAKE OVER BY THE GOVERNMENT AND CONVERTED INTO NATIONAL TYPE SCHOOLS.

ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN KELANTAN, DR. MAHATHIR SAID ONLY 35 PER CENT OF THE PROJECTS IN THE SECOND MALAYSIA PLAN HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED SO FAR.

MANY OF THE SCHEMES PROJECTS WERE DISRUPTED BECAUSE OF VARIOUS REASONS, INCLUDING THE DIFFICULTY IN THE ACQUISITION OF LAND AND THE INCREASED COSTS OF BUILDING MATERIALS.

KELANTAN HAS BEEN ALLOCATED \$27 MILLION FOR EDUCATION UNDER THE SECOND MALAYSIA PLAN, AND SO FAR HAS SPENT ABOUT \$19 MILLION.

DURING HIS VISIT, DR MAHATHIR WAS RECEIVED BY THE SULTAN AT THE ISTANA KOTA LAMA, AND MET THE MENTRI BESAR, DATUK HAJI MOHAMMAD BIN NASIR, AT HIS OFFICE. HE ALSO VISITED SEVERAL SCHOOLS. -- BERNAMA 1617/A1