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JITRA, OCT. 16 (BERNAMA)— NO OTHER GOVERNMENT IN THE WORLD GIVES SUCH EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION AS THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY.

ABOUT A QUARTER OF THE NATION'S ANNUAL EXPENDITURE IS SPENT ON EDUCATION, HE SAID AT A MEETING WITH ABOUT 500 TEACHERS AND PARENTS AT THE TUNKU BENDAHARA SECONDARY SCHOOL, 16 MILES FROM HERE.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID FOR THE 1974/75 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE, HIS MINISTRY HAD ASKED FOR \$1,300 MILLION. HOWEVER, THE TREASURY SAID THERE WAS A SHORTAGE OF FUNDS.

NEVERTHELESS, THE MINISTRY WAS EXPECTED TO GET \$900 MILLION OR \$1,000 MILLION.

HE SAID THE LARGE SUMS OF MONEY SPENT PROVED THAT THE GOVERNMENT TOOK A SERIOUS STAND WITH REGARD TO THE PEOPLE'S WELFARE. --  
BERNAMA MORE 1938/MD

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HE REGRETTED THE ACTION TAKEN BY CERTAIN IRRESPONSIBLE STUDENT GROUPS, LIKE BOYCOTTING CLASSES, HOLDING DEMONSTRATIONS AND PICKETING, IN KUALA LUMPUR AND PENANG RECENTLY.

DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT HIS MINISTRY WOULD NOT IGNORE THESE ACTIONS AS THE STUDENTS THEMSELVES WERE THE LOSERS.

HE CHARGED THAT CERTAIN PEOPLE WITH AN EYE ON THE HEADMASTER'S POST IN THE SCHOOLS WHERE THESE INCIDENTS OCCURRED SUPPORTED THE STUDENT ACTION.

HE ALSO REGRETTED THE ATTITUDE OF SOME TEACHERS WHO ABETTED STUDENTS IN THEIR PICKETING.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS SPENDING ABOUT \$100 MIL ANNUALLY ON THE FIVE UNIVERSITIES IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THIS WAS TO ENABLE THE PEOPLE TO ENJOY A HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING. --BERNAMA MORE 1942/MD

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HOWEVER, HE ADDED, SOME PEOPLE WERE SUPPRESSING THE POOR WHO WANTED TO BE EDUCATED AS WELL.

HE SAID POOR STUDENTS WOULD BE VICTIMISED AND WOULD NOT GET A PROPER EDUCATION. THIS, HE SAID, WAS IN CONFLICT WITH THE EDUCATION POLICY.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID \$62 MILLION WAS ALLOCATED FOR TEXTBOOK AID FOR NATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS NEXT YEAR.

WHILE SECONDARY SCHOOLS WOULD EXTEND AID TO PARENTS WITH AN INCOME OF \$500 AND BELOW ACCORDING TO A FIXED RATE, PARENTS EARNING \$200 AND BELOW WOULD BE FULLY ASSISTED. --BERNAMA  
1945/MD