

37:  
MAHATHIR  
BM

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KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 6 (BERNAMA) — A NUMBER OF OBSTACLES STILL HINDER FULL REALISATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME, EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY.

HE ADDED THAT THERE WERE ALSO SEVERAL +GROUNDS OF CONCERN+ IN HIGHER EDUCATION WHICH MUST BE GIVEN QUICK AND SERIOUS ATTENTION.

OTHERWISE, REALISATION OF THE EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES WOULD BE DELAYED, MEANING THAT FUTURE PROGRAMMES WOULD BE THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO UNDERTAKE.

DR. MAHATHIR MADE THESE POINTS IN A SPEECH TO THE OPENING OF A SEMINAR ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY, BEING HELD AT GENTING HIGHLANDS BY THE HIGHER EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

THE SPEECH WAS DELIVERED BY DEPUTY EDUCATION MINISTER ENCIK CHAN SIANG SUN. — BERNAMA MORE 1329/A1

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DR. MAHATHIR SAID MUCH HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN EDUCATION IN THE PAST 10 YEARS, BUT THESE ACHIEVEMENTS COULD NOT BE ALLOWED +CLOUD OUR EYES.+

+THERE ARE OBSTACLES WHICH STILL PREVENT US FROM ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVES FULLY,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING OF THE +GROUNDS OF CONCERN+ WHERE HIGHER EDUCATION WAS CONCERNED, HE SAID THESE INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

• THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS TAKING UP SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AS COMPARED TO ARTS WAS NOT INCREASING AT THE DESIRED RATIO;

• THERE WERE STILL TOO FEW BUMIPUTRA STUDENTS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; AND

• EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURE WAS INCREASING RAPIDLY (TO MORE THAN \$120 MILLION THIS YEAR), ESPECIALLY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION. — BERNAMA MORE 1334/A1

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DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT IF STEPS WERE NOT TAKEN TO CHANGE THE TREND IN STUDENT ENROLMENT, THE NATION WOULD FAIL TO ACHIEVE ITS ASPIRATIONS OF PRODUCING BUMIPUTRAS SKILLED IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

HE FELT ONE WAY TO IMPROVE THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM WOULD BE TO INTENSIFY THE EDUCATION PROGRAMME ITSELF.

IN THIS, THE HIGHER EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE.

IT COULD ALSO ENSURE THAT COURSES AND OTHER UNDERTAKINGS IN THE INSTITUTES OF HIGHER EDUCATION DID NOT DUPLICATE EACH OTHER.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID HIGHER EDUCATION WAS NOT SOLELY TO PREPARE AN INDIVIDUAL FOR FUTURE PERSONAL SUCCESS. IT WAS, INSTEAD, TRAINING FOR THE WHOLE YOUNGER GENERATION TO FIT THEMSELVES INTO FUTURE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. — BERNAMA MORE 1340/A1

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THE MINISTER ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CAMPUSES, ESPECIALLY IN RECENT MONTHS.

HE SAID THESE ACTIVITIES WOULD REDUCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EDUCATION IN THE UNIVERSITIES, AND ALSO POSE A THREAT TO LIFE AND PROPERTY.

HE URGED THE UNIVERSITIES TO FIND WAYS TO SOLVE POLITICAL CONFLICTS.

IF THIS WAS NOT DONE, THE GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE TO STEP IN TO DETERMINE THE GUIDELINES NECESSARY IN THE INTERESTS OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS. — BERNAMA 1358/A1