

141:
PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR

74 ✓
KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 28 (BERNAMA) — THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, REITERATED IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT TODAY THAT EDUCATION IS A NATIONAL ISSUE WHICH MUST BE VIEWED IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL INTEREST.

THIS MATTER SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED IN THE CONTEXT OF ONLY ONE COMMUNITY'S INTEREST, HE ADDED WHEN REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED DURING THE BUDGET DEBATE.

HE CRITICISED THE MEMBERS FOR SEREMBAN AND BATU GAJAH FOR CONCENTRATING THEIR ATTENTION ONLY ON ONE LANGUAGE.

THE USE OF NATIONAL LANGUAGE HAD BEEN DECIDED UPON BY ALL COMMUNITIES AND NOT JUST THE MALAYS, HE SAID. — BERNAMA MORE 1917/A1

142:
PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE EMPHASISED THAT MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE HAD ACCEPTED THE EDUCATION POLICY OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

THIS WAS REFLECTED IN THE OVERWHELMING VICTORY OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL DURING THE GENERAL ELECTION.

REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED BY THE MEMBER FROM GRIK, THE MINISTER SAID IT WAS NOT PRACTICAL TO HAVE ONLY NATIONAL SCHOOLS BOTH AT PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVELS AS THE MALAYSIAN SOCIETY COMPRISED MANY RACES.

+BECAUSE OF THIS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOWED NATIONAL TYPE CHINESE AND TAMIL SCHOOLS,+ HE SAID.

ON A SUGGESTION TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF UNIVERSITIES IN THE COUNTRY, DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT NECESSARY AT PRESENT AS THEY WERE ALREADY FIVE UNIVERSITIES IN THE COUNTRY. — BERNAMA MORE 1925/A1

143:
PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

TOUCHING ON POINTS RAISED BY THE MEMBER FOR TELUK ANSON ON THE SHORTAGE OF POLYTECHNICS AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS, THE MINISTER SAID THAT HIS MINISTRY WAS PLANNING TO BUILD A NEW POLYTECHNIC AT KUANTAN AND MORE VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

HE DID NOT AGREE WITH THE MEMBER THAT THE PERCENTAGE OF PASSES IN VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS WAS VERY LOW.

ON THE SUGGESTION TO INCLUDE KINDERGARTENS AS PART OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM, THE MINISTER REPLIED THAT HIS MINISTRY HAD NO INTENTION TO DO SO.

ON MORAL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, HE SAID AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS HAD BEEN SET UP TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF ISLAMIC EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS. — BERNAMA MORE 1928/A1

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT, DATUK HAJI ABDUL GHANI GILONG, SAID THE MAJORITY OF THE CONTRACTS TENDERED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN COMPLETED ON SCHEDULE.

HE EXPLAINED THAT DELAYS IN A FEW PROJECTS WERE CAUSED BY CONTRACTORS WHO RAN OUT OF MONEY OR WERE UNABLE TO OBTAIN THE MATERIALS REQUIRED.

REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED DURING THE DEBATE ON THE BUDGET, HE SAID THAT A NUMBER OF BUMIPUTRA CONTRACTORS OFTEN HAD TO WAIT FOR APPROVAL OF LOANS FROM MARA BEFORE UNDERTAKING THE PROJECTS.

REPLYING TO MATTERS RAISED BY SEVERAL MP'S FROM SABAH, DATUK GHANI SAID THAT ON THE WHOLE, ROAD PROJECTS IN THE STATE WERE COMPLETED ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE.

DELAYS IN A FEW PROJECTS WERE CAUSED BY SHORTAGE OF GRANITE. TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM, A FEW QUARRIES WOULD BE OPENED IN SABAH.

REGARDING ROAD SAFETY, HE SAID THE MINISTRY AND THE ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL HAD TAKEN STEPS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS.

THE TRAFFIC ORDINANCE, HE SAID, WOULD BE AMENDED TO IMPOSE HEAVIER PENALTIES FOR TRAFFIC OFFENCES.

HE URGED THE PEOPLE TO CO-OPERATE AND SUPPORT THE ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGNS.

DATUK GHANI SAID THAT HIS MINISTRY WAS CONSIDERING A SUGGESTION TO OPEN RIMV OFFICES IN SUNGAI PATANI, TAIPING AND OTHER TOWNS.

+IF NECESSARY, THESE PROJECTS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN,+ HE SAID. — BERNAMA MORE 1938/ZCM

THE DEPUTY PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER, ENCIK PAUL LEONG, REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED, SAID THAT A MARKETING INTELLIGENCE UNIT HAD BEEN SET UP IN THE MALAYSIAN TIMBER INDUSTRY BOARD TO STUDY THE ECONOMIC SITUATION FOR MARKETING TIMBER IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

HE DENIED RUMOURS THAT RUBBER DEALERS AND SMOKE-HOUSE OWNERS WOULD LOSE THEIR BUSINESS BECAUSE THEY WOULD BE FORCED TO SELL RUBBER DIRECTLY TO MARDEC AND THUS AVOID EXPLOITATION BY MIDDLE-MEN.

ON THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY, ENCIK LEONG SAID IT WAS UNTRUE THAT TOBACCO PLANTERS WERE FACING DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE OF THE FALL IN TOBACCO PRICES.

HE SAID THAT THE NATIONAL TOBACCO BOARD HAD REVIEWED THE COST OF TOBACCO PRODUCTION AND RAISED THE TOBACCO PRICE EFFECTIVE FROM AUG. 21 THIS YEAR.

HE ESTIMATED THAT TOBACCO IMPORTED COMPRISED 45 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NEEDS FOR THIS YEAR AND THE CONSUMPTION OF LOCAL TOBACCO WAS INCREASING AT A RATE OF 20 PER CENT A YEAR.

THE BOARD HAD ALSO TAKEN STEPS TO ENCOURAGE GREATER TOBACCO CULTIVATION. — BERNAMA MORE 1941/ZCM

146:

PARLIAMENT—MAHATHIR 6 KUALA LUMPUR

ENCIK LEONG SAID IN 1972, ABOUT 19,870 ACRES WERE PLANTED WITH TOBACCO BUT THE ACREAGE WOULD INCREASE DURING THE COMING YEARS.

THE OUTPUT OF LOCAL TOBACCO ALSO INCREASED FROM 10.6 MILLION POUNDS IN 1973 TO 16.7 MILLION POUNDS THIS YEAR AND WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO 19 MILLION POUNDS NEXT YEAR.

HE SAID IT WAS HOPED THAT THE EXPANSION IN THE LOCAL TOBACCO GROWING INDUSTRY WOULD REDUCE TOBACCO IMPORTS.

ENCIK LEONG ADDED THAT HIS MINISTRY WOULD ENCOURAGE THE EXPORT OF TOBACCO ONCE LOCAL NEEDS WERE MET.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT, ENCIK ABDULLAH MAJID, SAID THAT AN EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WOULD TAKE PLACE IN ONE TO TWO MONTHS.

REPLYING TO HAJI WAHAB YUNUS (BN-DUNGUN), ENCIK ABDULLAH SAID THAT IT WAS NOT THE DEUTY OF THE MALAYSIAN HEADS OF MISSIONS ABROAD TO INSTIL A FEELING OF LOVE FOR THE COUNTRY AMONG MALAYSIAN STUDENTS ABROAD.

HE SAID THE STUDENTS THEMSELVES SHOULD NORMALLY HAVE THIS FEELING BEFORE LEAVING FOR FURTHER STUDIES ABROAD.

HE SAID IT WAS DISGUSTING THAT A FEW MALAYSIAN STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND HAD PROFESSED THEIR ANTI-MALAYSIAN FEELINGS. — BERNAMA MORE 1944/ZCM

147:

PARLIAMENT—MAHATHIR 7 KUALA LUMPUR

ENCIK ABDULLAH SAID THAT THE MALAYSIAN STUDENTS DEPARTMENTS ABROAD WERE KEEPING CLOSE CONTACTS WITH THE STUDENTS AND THE GOVERNMENT HOPED TO OPEN MORE SUCH DEPARTMENTS. — BERNAMA 1948/ZC