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(P)

JITRA, DEC. 1 (BERNAMA) — EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED WARNED TODAY OF ATTEMPTS BY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO HOLD DEMONSTRATIONS IN KAMPUNGS.

HE SAID THESE STUDENTS WOULD MEET AND TALK TO VILLAGERS ON OPPOSING THE GOVERNMENT AND HOLD DEMONSTRATIONS SUPPOSEDLY TO CHAMPION THE CAUSE OF POOR PEOPLE.

+THERE HAS BEEN UNZ SUCH ATTEMPT -- ALTHOUGH UNSUCCESSFUL -- IN KUBANG PASU, + HE TOLD 1,000 RESIDENTS FROM FIVE KAMPUNGS IN THE MALAU MUKIM NEAR HERE.

DR. MAHATHIR DESCRIBED SUCH ACTIVITIES AS SIMILAR TO THE COMMUNIST TERRORISTS'S WHERE THE GOVERNMENT'S DOWNFALL WAS THE MAIN AIM.

+THESE STUDENTS WILL EVEN CRITICISE THEIR OWN PARENTS IF THEY DO NOT SUPPORT THEIR STRUGGLE, + HE ADDED. — BERNAMA MORE 2015/SZ

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

OF THIS AMOUNT, \$22 MILLION A YEAR WAS FOR THE 2,000-ODD STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN.

HE SAID THAT INSTEAD OF MAKING USE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET AN EDUCATION, THE STUDENTS WERE FINDING FAULT WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID NO MALAYSIAN CITIZEN HAD EVER DIED OF STARVATION IN THE COUNTRY.

THE GOVERNMENT MADE SURE THAT HUNGER WOULD NOT CLAIM ANY VICTIMS, ESPECIALLY DURING THE FLOODS, BY HAVING FOOD SUPPLIES DEPLOYED TO REMOTE AREAS.

EARLIER, KEDAH STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR ENCIK OSMAN AROF ASSURED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT SHIRK ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. — BERNAMA MORE 2020/SZ

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HE SAID IT WAS AWARE OF UNDER-DEVELOPMENT IN CERTAIN KAMPUNGS AND WAS TAKING REMEDIAL STEPS.

HOWEVER, THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED SINCE INDEPENDENCE HAD BEEN TREMENDOUS, HE ADDED.

ALSO PRESENT WERE STATE EDUCATION DIRECTOR ENCIK JUMAAT HAJI MOHAMED NOOR AND KUBANG PASU DISTRICT OFFICER ENCIK TAJUDDIN HAJI HASHIM. — BERNAMA 2021/SZ

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