

(P) KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 5⁷⁴ (BERNAMA) -- EDUCATION MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED TOLD THE DEWAN RAKYAT TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD REVIEW THE WHOLE SYSTEM OF CONDUCTING EXAMINATIONS TO ENSURE THERE WOULD BE NO LEAKAGE OF EXAMINATION PAPERS IN FUTURE.

WINDING UP THE DEBATE ON THE MINISTRY'S ESTIMATES TOTALLING \$1,287.4 MILLION FOR 1975, HE SAID THAT THE EXISTING SYSTEM WOULD BE REVIEWED THOROUGHLY, ESPECIALLY FROM THE SECURITY POINT OF VIEW. THE ALLOCATION WAS APPROVED.

HE WAS REPLYING TO CRITICISMS BY SEVERAL MP'S ON THE RECENT LEAKAGE OF THE BAHASA MALAYSIA PAPER.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THIS YEAR'S SYSTEM OF CONDUCTING THE EXAMINATIONS WAS THE SAME AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS. IN FACT, SEVERAL MEASURES WERE EVEN TAKEN TO STRENGTHEN THE ORGANISATIONAL FEATURES OF THE EXAMS.

HE ADDED THAT THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS WAS INVESTIGATING THE LEAKAGE AND AS SUCH IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO PINPOINT THE WEAKNESS WHICH HAD LED TO THE LEAK.

RE-SITTING FOR THE BAHASA MALAYSIA PAPER SHOULD NOT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE TO THE CANDIDATES AS THE BAHASA MALAYSIA PAPER WAS MORE OF A TEST OF PROFICIENCY AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE LANGUAGE.

HE ADDED THAT IT WAS NOT A SUBJECT THAT HAD TO BE MUGGED OR A TEST OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE. --BERNAMA MORE 1845/IK.

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PARLIAMENT-DEBATE 2 KUALA LUMPUR (INTRO)

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE DECISION TO RE-SET THE BAHASA MALAYSIA PAPER WAS PROPER AND SUPPORTED BY PUPILS AND THE PUBLIC. ON STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, DR. MAHATHIR AGREED WITH ENCIK LIM KIT SIANG (DAP-KOTA MELAKA) THAT THESE WERE NOT PECULIAR TO MALAYSIA AND WERE COMMON IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES.

+WE ARE STUDYING THE MEANS USED BY OTHER COUNTRIES TO PREVENT SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS,+ HE SAID.

MALAYSIA WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE MANNER IN WHICH A NEIGHBOURING COUNTRY HAD SUCCEEDED SO WELL IN THIS FIELD. -- BERNAMA MORE 1904/IK

REFERRING TO SUGGESTIONS THAT STUDENTS OF VARIOUS COMMUNITIES STUDY UNDER ONE ROOF TO PROMOTE NATIONAL UNITY, DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS NOT PRACTICABLE.

HE SAID IT WAS A GOOD SUGGESTION BUT IDEAL ONLY FOR A COUNTRY MADE UP OF ONE RACE.

HOWEVER, IN A MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY LIKE MALAYSIA, IT WAS NOT FEASIBLE.

IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST, THE GOVERNMENT ALLOWED CHINESE AND TAMIL SCHOOLS AT PRIMARY LEVEL.

BUT, AT THE SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVELS, ALL PUPILS WOULD STUDY UNDER A ONE LANGUAGE STREAM AND ONE ROOF.

REPLYING AGAIN TO ENCIK LIM ON THE ISSUE OF CHINESE EDUCATION, DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT IT WAS BECAUSE THE MATTER WAS A NATIONAL PROBLEM THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD FORMULATED POLICIES SO THAT CHINESE EDUCATION DID NOT TAKE AWAY THE CHINESE FROM THE REST OF THE POPULATION.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT IF THE ISSUE WAS REGARDED AS SOMETHING CONCERNING ONLY THE CHINESE, THEN THE CHINESE WOULD HAVE ITS OWN EDUCATION SYSTEM, THE TAMIL AND THE MALAYS WOULD ALSO HAVE THEIR OWN SYSTEMS.

+THE NATION WILL THEN SPEAK THREE DIFFERENT LANGUAGES AND THE DIFFERENT RACES WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO EACH OTHER,+ HE SAID.

HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT EMPHASIS ON THE DIFFERENT EDUCATION STREAMS SHOULD NOT IN ANY WAY INTERFERE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO BRING THE VARIOUS RACES TOGETHER AND USE EDUCATION AS A MEANS TO CREATE UNITY.

DR. MAHATHIR ADDED THAT THE MINISTRY WAS CONSULTING THE CAMBRIDGE EXAMINATIONS SYNDICATE ON THE FEASIBILITY OF SETTING ALL THE PAPERS OF LOCAL EXAMINATIONS IN MALAYSIA. —BERNAMA MORE 1930/IK

REPLYING TO ENCIK K. PATHMANABAN (BN-TELUK KEMANG), THE MINISTER SAID THAT THE ISSUE OF GRANTS TO TAMIL SCHOOLS IN THE ESTATES WAS A COMPLICATED MATTER AS MOST OF THESE SCHOOLS WERE VERY SMALL.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS DOING ITS BEST TO IMPROVE THE FACILITIES IN THE EXISTING SCHOOLS.

DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THERE WERE 10 RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES CATERING TO POOR PUPILS.

HE ADDED THAT WHEN THE NUMBER OF COLLEGES WAS INCREASED, MORE PUPILS OF ALL RACES WOULD BE ADMITTED. —BERNAMA 1935/IK