

(F)

45:

MIT-MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, JAN. 12 ⁷⁶ (BERNAMA) -- A BILL IS BEING DRAFTED TO GIVE THE EDUCATION MINISTER DIRECT POWERS OVER THE MARA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.

EDUCATION MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, SAID TODAY HIS ACTIONS IN RELATION TO THE MIT NOW WERE BY AUTHORITY OF THE MARA ACT.

A BILL WAS NECESSARY TO GIVE HIM DIRECT POWERS OVER THE MIT SO THAT HE COULD ACT MORE EFFECTIVELY, HE TOLD REPORTERS HERE. HE DID NOT SAY WHEN THE BILL WOULD BE INTRODUCED IN PARLIAMENT.

REFERRING TO HIS EARLIER STATEMENT THAT THE NUMBER OF MIT STUDENTS MIGHT BE REDUCED FROM ABOUT 7,000 TO 4,500, HE SAID THIS WOULD BE DONE GRADUALLY.

+AT PRESENT, THE MIT IS OVERSTRETCHING ITS FACILITIES AND THE CAPACITY OF THE STAFF TO TEACH EFFECTIVELY,+ HE SAID.--BERNAMA MORE BY 1435

(F)

46:

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THERE WERE NOW 600 TEACHING STAFF -- A +FAIR NUMBER+ OF THEM EMPLOYED ON A PART-TIME BASIS -- TO CATER TO ABOUT 7,000 STUDENTS.

THIS WAS NOT THE IDEAL TEACHER-TO-STUDENT RATIO, +WHICH IS A DETERMINANT TO PERFORMANCE+.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID NEW PROCEDURES WOULD BE ENFORCED FOR TAKING IN STUDENTS, AND GREATER SCRUTINY WOULD BE EXERCISED.

+WE WILL GIVE PRIORITY TO STUDENTS WHOM WE FEEL WILL BENEFIT FROM THE FACILITIES OFFERED THEM AND WEED OUT THOSE INVOLVED IN DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES THAT CAN ONLY INTERFERE WITH THEIR OWN AND OTHER PEOPLE'S STUDIES,+ HE SAID.

+OUT MAIN OBJECTIVE NOW IS TO PRODUCE SUCCESSFUL GRADUATES AND NOT AIM AT A LARGE STUDENT POPULATION FOR ITS OWN SAKE.+ --BERNAMA MORE BY 1438

(F)

47:

MIT-MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

REFERRING TO THE FOUR STUDENTS DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEMONSTRATION, DR. MAHATHIR SAID NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON WHAT ACTION TO TAKE AGAINST THEM.

HE ALSO REFERRED TO CRITICISMS THAT HE HAD BEEN +SOFT+ ON THE STUDENTS WHO DEMONSTRATED, AND SAID A MAIN INTENTION HAD BEEN TO +DIFFUSE+ THE SITUATION.

+WE ARE A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY, AND HAVE TO OBSERVE DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES,+ HE SAID.

+ALSO, THERE ARE MANY ASPECTS OF THE SITUATION THAT MUST BE CONSIDERED, NOT LEAST OF WHICH IS THE REACTION OF THE PARENTS AND RELATIVES.

+IT IS NOT SO EASY FOR PEOPLE TO BE DETACHED WHEN THEY HAVE CHILDREN OR RELATIVES INVOLVED.+ --BERNAMA BY 1441