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MAHATHIR-SCIENCE

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PENANG, MARCH 27 (BERNAMA) -- URGENT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN TO MODERNISE THE EDUCATION SYSTEM STARTING AT THE PRIMARY LEVEL TO LAY A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR THE EDUCATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF YOUNG CHILDREN.

EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY THIS WAS BECAUSE TO DATE INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION HAD BEEN PAID TO THE PROPER ROLE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS STUDIES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS CURRICULA WERE TOO ACADEMIC IN CONTENT AND APPROACH AND WERE PRESCRIBED FOR THE MORE ABLE CHILDREN, HE SAID AT THE RECSAM 17TH PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES CEREMONY, HERE.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THESE SUBJECTS SHOULD BE MADE MORE INTERESTING, RELEVANT AND MEANINGFUL TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY OF THE CHILD.

FURTHERMORE, THE SUBJECTS SHOULD CATER TO THE NEEDS OF THE AVERAGE PUPILS, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA MORE 1550/LK

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HE SAID IT WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO EDUCATE AND TRAIN ONLY THE MORE ABLE PUPILS TO BE SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS AND LEAVE THE REST OF THE PUPILS TO FIND THEIR OWN WAY IN THE WORLD.

+WE ALSO NEED SKILLED, MIDDLE AND LOWER-LEVEL PERSONNEL WITH UP-TO-DATE EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY IN ORDER TO MEET THE NEEDS FOR AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL MANPOWER AT ALL LEVELS,+ SAID DR. MAHATHIR.

THEREFORE, HE STRESSED, THE SAME PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO EDUCATE THE LARGE MAJORITY OF YOUNG CITIZENS, IF NOT ALL, FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTS IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. -- BERNAMA MORE 1558/YE

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MAHATHIR-SCIENCE 3 PENANG

DR. MAHATHIR SAID CHILDREN SHOULD BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITIES TO REALISE THAT THEIR OWN FUTURE LAY IN THE STUDY OF AS MUCH SCIENCE AND CULTURE AS A MODERN WORLD HAD TO OFFER.

THEY SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO LEARN THE SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS OF SCIENCE TO SOCIETY AND THEIR COUNTRY.

HE ADDED THAT THE HUMANISATION OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS TEACHING IN SCHOOLS WAS A VITAL PART OF GENERAL EDUCATION FOR ALL YOUNG CITIZENS.

IN THIS WAY THEY WOULD BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND THE BENEFICIAL INFLUENCE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NOT ONLY TO THEIR COUNTRY BUT ALSO TO THEIR OWN LIVES.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE ALL THE SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION WITHIN ITS MEANS TO SEAMEO IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF ITS TWO PROJECTS IN THE COUNTRY.

THE TWO PROJECTS ARE RECSAM, HERE, AND THE REGIONAL PROGRAMMES ON TROPICAL MEDICINE AT THE MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH IN KUALA LUMPUR.

HE SAID MALAYSIA WAS PROUD OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THESE TWO PROJECTS TO THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA. --BERNAMA 1625/MD