

05
MAHATHIR
BM

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
BE UNDER THE

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P SHAH ALAM, MARCH 29 (BERNAMA) -- EDUCATION MINISTER DR MAHATHIR MOHAMED HAS GIVEN AN ASSURANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND FACILITIES TO BUMIPUTRAS UNTIL THEY WERE REALLY PROGRESSIVE IN THE FIELD.

THIS WAS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO CREATE A FAIR SOCIETY WHERE THE STANDARD OF BUMIPUTRAS IN ALL FIELDS WOULD BE AT PAR WITH THE OTHER RACES.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A FORUM ON THE MALAYSIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM AND ITS ROLE IN CREATING A PROGRESSIVE SOCIETY AT THE MARA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY HERE LAST NIGHT.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS SHOWING FAVOURITISM TOWARDS THE BUMIPUTRAS BUT WAS ONLY TRYING TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE VARIOUS RACES, PARTICULARLY BUMIPUTRAS AND OTHER RACES.

THESE EFFORTS WERE CARRIED OUT NOT BY SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITIES OF OTHER RACES BUT BY PROVIDING MORE OPPORTUNITIES AND FACILITIES TO THE BUMIPUTRAS, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA MORE 1055/YF

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DR. MAHATHIR ADDED THAT THESE EFFORTS WOULD ENSURE THAT CERTAIN FIELDS SUCH AS ECONOMY AND EDUCATION WERE NOT MONOPOLISED BY ANY PARTICULAR RACE.

HE SAID STEPS TO PROVIDE BUMIPUTRAS WITH GREATER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WERE INTENSIFIED AFTER 1969 WHEN THE GOVERNMENT REALISED THAT THEY HAD LONG BEEN LEFT BEHIND IN THE FIELD.

THIS FACT WAS ACKNOWLEDGED AND ACCEPTED BY POLITICAL PARTIES AND OTHER PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY WITH THE REALISATION THAT THERE COULD ONLY BE LONG-LASTING SOLIDARITY AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE PEOPLE IF THERE WERE NO DIFFERENCES AMONG THE RACES.

DR. MAHATHIR, HOWEVER, SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED IF THE BUMIPUTRAS THEMSELVES DID NOT WANT TO MAKE USE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES. -- BERNAMA MORE 1105/YF

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MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

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EARLIER, A FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE MIT STUDENTS UNION, ENCIK HUSSEIN ABDUL RAHMAN, SAID THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN COUNTRY MUST BE SENSITIVE AND RESPONSIVE TO ALL ELEMENTS IN SOCIETY.

HE SAID THE SYSTEM MUST ALSO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY AND FREEDOM TO STUDENTS TO DISCUSS SOCIAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS FEUDALISM AND BUREACRATIC CAPITALISM.

PROF. SYED NAQUI AL-ATTAS OF THE UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN, SAID KNOWLEDGE COULD NOT BE MADE A PROPAGANDA INSTRUMENT BY ANY SECTOR. -- BERNAMA 1120/AB