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MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR MARCH 29 (BERNAMA) -- EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED HAS STRESSED THE NEED FOR GREATER USE OF BAHASA MALAYSIA IN SCIENTIFIC FIELDS INCLUDING PUBLICATIONS AND SEMINARS.

HE SAID IT HAD OFTEN BEEN SAID THAT THE LANGUAGE LACKED SOPHISTICATED TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CATCH UP WITH THE STANDARD ACHIEVED BY ENGLISH, GERMAN OR RUSSIAN.

+BUT A GLANCE AT THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF ALL BRANCHES OF SCIENCE IN JAPAN AND CHINA IN OUR TIMES CASTS SOME DOUBT ON THE CONTENTION THAT ASIATIC LANGUAGES ARE INCAPABLE OF SCIENTIFIC SOPHISTICATED, + HE ADDED.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER ORGANISED BY THE MALAYSIAN BIO-CHEMISTRY ASSOCIATION HERE TONIGHT, THE MINISTER CALLED FOR WIDER USE OF BAHASA MALAYSIA IN PROMOTING UNITY AMONG PEOPLE OF VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH ENGLISH WAS MORE SUITABLE OR NATURAL FOR HIGHER STUDIES, WITHOUT THE FIRST STEP, BAHASA MALAYSIA WOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED.

HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT ENGLISH MUST BE TREATED AS A VERY IMPORTANT SECOND LANGUAGE.

DR MAHATHIR ALSO CALLED ON UNIVERSITIES TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGES OF MODERN SOCIETY AND SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MEET NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS IN TRAINING SUITABLE MANPOWER. --BERNAMA MORE 2215/1K

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MAHATHIR-2 KUALA LUMPUR

+WHILE BEING PROUD OF OUR PAST ACHIEVEMENTS, UNIVERSITIES SHOULD PREPARE FOR THEIR FUTURE ROLES, + HE SAID.

SOCIETY, HE SAID SHOULD AWARE OF THE EXISTENCE OF 'WINDS OF CHANGE', DISCONTENT AND DISILLUSIONMENT, AND +THE AWESOME ARRAY OF UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS AND UNMET NEEDS WHICH CONFRONT US AT EVERY TURN. +

HE HOPED THAT STUDENTS JOINING THE UNIVERSITIES WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAD AN OBJECTIVE AND WOULD HELP TO PROGRAMME ITS FUTURE UNIVERSITIES SHOULD ALSO HAVE + A SENSE OF MISSION+ SO AS TO SOLVE THE PRESENT PROBLEM SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE SURROUNDINGS AND THEIR ROLE IN IT.

+KNOWLEDGE SERVES AS THE SOURCE OF POWER TODAY IN CONTRAST TO LAND AND CAPITAL IN THE BYGONE DAYS, + DR. MAHATHIR SAID.

EDUCATION, HE SAID, WAS NOT MERELY TO ATTAIN THE OBJECTIVES OF GAINING KNOWLEDGE BUT MORE IMPORTANT WAS THAT THE STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO RECOGNISE PROBLEMS, TO ANALYSE AND MADE RESOLUTIONS.

DR. MAHATHIR HOWEVER, STRESSED THAT ALL ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES MUST BE BASED ON THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY. --BERNAMA 2220 /1K