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SCHOOLS

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 4 (BERNAMA) — SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY CANNOT BE NAMED AFTER LIVING PERSONS EXCEPT SULTANS, THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, SAID TODAY.

HE ADDED THAT THIS POLICY WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED THIS YEAR TO ENSURE THAT SCHOOLS WERE NOT NAMED AFTER SERVING MINISTERS OR OTHER PROMINENT PEOPLE.

BRIEFING THE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MDR. MAHATHIR SAID THERE WERE STILL 400 SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY WHICH HAD NOT BEEN NAMED AND WERE AWAITING OFFICIAL OPENING.

HE SAID THAT MOST THE SCHOOLS WANTED HIM TO OFFICIATE THE OPENING BUT THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE. HE HOPED THE SCHOOLS WOULD REQUEST MPS OR OTHER PROMINENT LEADERS TO DO SO.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID HIS MINISTRY'S BIGGEST PROBLEM WAS THE TRAINING OF TEACHERS, THEIR POSTING AND SALARY STRUCTURE.

HE SAID THAT THESE PROBLEMS WERE DIFFICULT TO SOLVE OVERNIGHT SINCE +EVERY PROBLEM SOLVED GIVES RISE TO NEW ONES+. BERNAMA MORE 1455/SZ

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FOR EXAMPLE, IF A TEACHER FROM A CERTAIN SCHOOL WERE TO BE TRANSFERRED HE HAD TO BE REPLACED AND MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, THE REPLACEMENT WOULD BE OPPOSED BY THE SCHOOL CONCERNED GIVING RISE TO ANOTHER PROBLEM.

HE SAID THAT THE MINISTRY RECEIVED ABOUT 18,000 APPLICATIONS FOR TRANSFERS ANNUALLY BUT COULD ONLY MANAGE TO APPROVE ABOUT 2,000.

THIS HE POINTED OUT WAS BECAUSE MANY OF THE TEACHERS ASKING FOR TRANSFERS COULD NOT BE REPLACED BY SUITABLE PERSONS.

DR. MAHATHIR HOPED MPS WOULD APPRECIATE THE PROBLEMS FACED BY HIS MINISTRY.

HE ASSURED THEM THAT THE MINISTRY WAS DOING ITS BEST TO +SOLVE AS MANY PROBLEMS AS POSSIBLE.+

HE ALSO HOPED THAT THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET +AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE PREFERABLY WITH EVERY SITTING OF PARLIAMENT+ TO DISCUSS VARIOUS PROBLEMS.

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF EDUCATION, ENCIK MURAD BIN MOHAMED NOOR, SAID THE DROP-OUT RATE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS WAS STILL HIGH AT ABOUT 50 PER CENT.

HE SAID THAT THE ENROLMENT IN MALAY MEDIUM SCHOOLS THIS YEAR HAD REACHED ABOUT 750,000.

ON EXPENDITURE, HE SAID \$82.7 MILLION HAD BEEN ALLOCATED THIS YEAR FOR UNIVERSITIES.

HE SAID THAT IT COST THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT \$20,000 PER YEAR TO PRODUCE A GRADUATE FROM THE UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN AND \$15,000 FROM UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA.

AS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA, IT COST \$2,224 PER YEAR TO PRODUCE AN ARTS GRADUATE, \$2,526 AN ECONOMICS GRADUATE AND \$10,000 FOR A DOCTOR. — BERNAMA 1458/SZ

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