

(F)

103:

MAHATHIR-ENGLISH

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 22 (BERNAMA)— THE GOVERNMENT WANTS STUDENTS TO BE PROFICIENT IN ENGLISH EVEN WHEN BAHASA MALAYSIA IS USED FULLY AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION, THE EDUCATION MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, SAID TODAY.

NOTING THAT ENGLISH WAS AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE, HE SAID A GRASP OF THE LANGUAGE WAS ESSENTIAL FOR INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE, HE SAID A GRASP OF THE LANGUAGE WAS ESSENTIAL FOR INCREASING KNOWLEDGE, ESPECIALLY AT POST-SECONDARY LEVEL.

HE SAID THAT THE NUMBER OF ENGLISH BOOKS ON THE VARIOUS SUBJECTS WAS SO VAST THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO TRANSLATE THEM ALL INTO BAHASA MALAYSIA.

SPEAKING AT THE SPEECH AND PRIZE-GIVING DAY OF THE METHODIST BOYS PRIMARY SCHOOL HERE, HE ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH FOR STUDIES OVERSEAS.

HE URGED STUDENTS TO READ ENGLISH MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS, SAYING THAT READING TEXTBOOKS ALONE WAS NOT ENOUGH FOR A COMMAND OF THE LANGUAGE. —BERNAMA MORE 1830/MD

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HE WANTED TEACHERS TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS IN TEACHING ENGLISH AND HELP ENSURE THAT SCHOOL LIBRARIES HAD SUFFICIENT BOOKS IN THE LANGUAGE.

HE ALSO URGED PUPILS TO BE COMPETITIVE IN THEIR STUDIES AND TO CONTINUE BEING SO EVEN WHEN THEY HAD REACHED THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL.

WITHOUT THIS SPIRIT OF COMPETITION, THEY WOULD GROW INDIFFERENT TO STUDIES AND MIGHT INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN UNDESIRABLE ACTIVITIES, HE SAID.

PARENTS, HE SAID, SHOULD ENCOURAGE THEIR CHILDREN TO TAKE PART IN ACTIVITIES THAT COULD HELP DEVELOP A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY.

— BERNAMA 1833/MD

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DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID HIS MINISTRY WAS TAKING STEPS TO INVESTIGATE DRUG-ABUSE AMONG SCHOOLCHILDREN.

ANY DRUG ADDICT WOULD BE SENT TO THE REHABILITATION CENTRE, HE SAID.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOOL'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS, DR. TAN CHEE KHOON, URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE STEPS TO CHECK DRUG ABUSE AMONG SCHOOLCHILDREN. —BERNAMA 1917/MD