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BAHAU, MAY 6 (BERNAMA) — EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED ADVISED NATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL AUTHORITIES TODAY TO GIVE MORE PRIORITY TO THE TEACHING OF BAHASA MALAYSIA FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN'S FUTURE.

HE REMINDED THEM THAT BY 1982, BAHASA MALAYSIA WOULD BE THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

IN VIEW OF THIS, THE CHILDREN NEEDED A GOOD GROUNDING IN THE LANGUAGE AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL LEVEL TO PREPARE THEM FOR EDUCATION AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL.

MOREOVER, A PASS IN BAHASA MALAYSIA WAS COMPULSORY IN THE LOWER CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION AND MALAYSIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATIONS.

BAHASA MALAYSIA WOULD LATER BE MADE THE MAIN MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN ALL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.

DR. MAHATHIR REMINDED THE PEOPLE HOWEVER THAT ENGLISH WAS STILL IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF ITS STATUS AS AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE.

IT SHOULD BE PRESERVED AS THE SECOND LANGUAGE IN ALL ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE NEW BUILDING OF THE BAHAU NATIONAL TYPE (CHINESE) PRIMARY SCHOOL COSTING \$182,000 HERE. —BERNAMA MORE 1400/IK

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HE WANTED STUDENTS TO ACCORD THE PROPER IMPORTANCE TO BOTH BAHASA MALAYSIA AND ENGLISH.

HE SAID GOVERNMENT ENDEAVOURS TO GIVE GOOD EDUCATION TO THE CHILDREN WOULD FAIL WITHOUT THE CO-OPERATION OF TEACHERS AND PARENTS.

EVERY TEACHER SHOULD REALISE HIS ROLE AS AN EDUCATOR WHILE PARENTS SHOULD REALISE THEY TOO HAD A PART TO PLAY AND NOT SURRENDER THE TASK SOLELY TO THE TEACHERS.

WITH PROPER EDUCATION, STUDENTS WOULD BE BETTER EQUIPPED TO AVOID UNHEALTHY INFLUENCES AND HABITS.

THE MINISTER ALSO REFERRED TO THE ACTION OF SOME STUDENTS IN DESTROYING SCHOOL PROPERTY AND FACILITIES.

THIS OCCURRED BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF CIVIC-CONSCIOUSNESS AMONG THOSE INVOLVED AND HE URGED THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED TO TAKE NOTE OF THE MATTER. —BERNAMA 1405/IK

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