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92:

MAHATHIR-BAHASA

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EMBARGO: FOR AUTOMATIC RELEASE AFTER 5 P.M. TODAY, JUNE 19.

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 19 (BERNAMA)— EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED WARNED TODAY THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT WANT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY MAKING BAHASA MALAYSIA THE MAIN MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN UNIVERSITIES DELAYED WITHOUT GOOD REASON.

HE HOPED NO UNIVERSITY WOULD BE LEFT BEHIND WHEN THE TIME CAME FOR THEM TO BEGIN ALL FIRST YEAR COURSES IN BAHASA MALAYSIA IN 1983.

HE SAID THIS WHEN PRESENTING CERTIFICATES FOR AN INTENSIVE BAHASA MALAYSIA COURSE TO 48 MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA ACADEMIC STAFF HERE.

DR. MAHATHIR TRUSTED EACH UNIVERSITY HAD ITS WON PROGRAMMES IN SWITCHING TO THE LANGUAGE AS THEIR MAIN MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY AND WOULD NOT COUNTENANCE DELAYS IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION WITH EXCUSES LIKE LACK OF TIME TO CONVERT THE TEACHING SYSTEM FULLY TO BAHASA MALAYSIA.

+THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED MUCH FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PEOPLE TO LEARN BAHASA MALAYSIA SINCE THE COUNTRY ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE IN 1957. +--- BERNAMA MORE 1645/1B

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MAHATHIR-BAHASA 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

DR. MAHATHIR SAID DEVELOPMENTS IN UNIVERSITIES ESPECIALLY IN THE UNIVERSITI-KEBANGSAAN HAD PROVED THAT BAHASA MALAYSIA COULD BE USED IN HIGHER LEARNING, ESPECIALLY IN ARTS, PURE SCIENCE AND SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSES.

OTHER COURSES LIKE MEDICINE, ENGINEERING AND AGRICULTURE WERE MAKING MORE USE OF THE LANGUAGE.

HE SAID THE SUCCESS REFLECTED THE WILLINGNESS AND CAPABILITY OF THE UNIVERSITY STAFF IN CONFORMING TO THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY.

HE ALSO PRAISED THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA FOR ITS EFFORTS MADE ALONG SIMILAR LINES.

DR. MAHATHIR THEN URGED MALAYSIA'S FIVE UNIVERSITIES TO FORMULATE OR CREATE TERMINOLOGIES IN BAHASA MALAYSIA TO OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES IN THE CONVERSION TO THE LANGUAGE IN THEIR LECTURE ROOMS.

THEY SHOULD HOWEVER BE CAREFUL IN THE USE OF TERMINOLOGIES TO AVOID CONFUSION.

HE ALSO STRESSED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING BAHASA MALAYSIA ITS PROPER PLACE IN CRITERIA FOR PROMOTING ACADEMIC STAFF TO ENCOURAGE GREATER PROFICIENCY IN THE LANGUAGE AMONG THEM. —

BERNAMA 1650/1B