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MAHATHIR-ART
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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 12 (BERNAMA)— EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED TOLD LOCAL PAINTERS TODAY THAT THEIR WORKS SHOULD DEPICT THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE AND REFLECT CONTEMPORARY THINKING.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH MALAYSIA HAD MANY TALENTED ARTISTS, MOST OF THEM CONCENTRATED ON THE RURAL SCENE.

OPENING A CHILDREN ART EXHIBITION AT MUZIUM NEGARA HERE, HE EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE +COOL RESPONSE+ OF MALAYSIANS TO LOCAL WORKS.

THIS ATTITUDE MIGHT BE DUE TO THE FACT THAT THEIR APPRECIATION OF ART WAS NOT AS KEEN AS THAT OF WESTERNERS, HE SAID.

IN ANY CASE, HE WAS SURE THEY WOULD CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE WHEN LOCAL ARTISTS ATTAIN A HIGHER STANDARD IN THEIR WORK.

— BERNAMA MORE 1610/MD

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DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SPOKE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO DEVELOP THEIR ARTISTIC TALENT.

THE PAINTINGS BEING DISPLAYED ARE BY CHILDREN WHO ATTENDED ART CLASSES HELD BY THE MUSEUM.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID SUCH CLASSES COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE CREATION OF ARTISTS WHO WOULD REFLECT MALAYSIAN CULTURE IN THEIR WORK.

THE MUSEUM'S DIRECTOR-GENERAL, ENCIK SHARUM YUB, SAID THE MUSEUM HAD HELD ART CLASSES FOR CHILDREN SINCE FIVE YEARS AGO.

SOME OF THE CHILDREN'S PAINTINGS HAD BEEN DISPLAYED AT INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN ART EXHIBITIONS. —BERNAMA 1614/MD