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PARLIAMANT - EDUCATION

KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 16 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECRUITED 162 BAHASA MALAYSIA TEACHERS FROM PENINSULAR MALAYSIA LAST YEAR AND THIS YEAR TO TEACH THE LANGUAGE IN SARAWAK.

EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY IT HAD ALSO TAKEN OTHER MEASURES TO PROMOTE AND FACILITATE THE USAGE OF THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE IN THE STATE.

HE TOLD THE DEWAN RAYAT HERE THAT THEY INCLUDED ENRICHING THE TEACHING OF BAHASA MALAYSIA AT TEACHER COLLEGES IN KUCHING, BINATANG AND SIBU VIA COURSES FOR ALL TRAINEE TEACHERS AND PRODUCING TEACHERS THROUGH INTENSIVE BAHASA MALAYSIA COURSES.

TO DATE, A TOTAL OF 337 TEACHERS HAD UNDERGONE THESE COURSES SINCE THEIR INCEPTION IN 1973. HE ADDED WHEN REPLYING TO ENCIK SOMA TAWAN HARWIN ANAK JINGGONG (SNAP-LUBOK ANTU).

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT WAS STILL NOT SATISFIED WITH THE USAGE OF BAHASA MALAYSIA IN SARAWAK SCHOOLS.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO ENCIK CHIAN HENG KAI (DAP-BATU GAJAH), DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE CABINET COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EDUCATION POLICY HAD RECEIVED 302 MEMORANDA SO FAR. — BERNAMA MORE 1721/YF

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THE COMMITTEE HAD ALREADY HELD SEVEN MEETINGS WHILE THE VARIOUS SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS HAD MET 66 TIMES.

ALL RECOMMENDATIONS WERE STUDIED IN DEPTH BY THE WORKING GROUPS, WHICH WOULD LATER PREPARE A REPORT FOR SUBMISSION TO THE CABINET COMMITTEE.

REPLYING TO HAJI MOHAMED ZAIN ABDULLAH (BN-BACHOK) WHO ASKED ABOUT SCHOOL DROP-OUTS, DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE DROP-OUT RATE AMONG PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS OF THE VARIOUS MEDIUMS OF INSTRUCTION HAD DECREASED.

ACCORDING TO STATISTICS, 9.8 PER CENT DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOLS IN 1968 COMPARED WITH 13.6 PER CENT THE PREVIOUS YEAR, 9.6 PER CENT IN 1969 AND 6.5 PER CENT IN 1970.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT INTEND TO REVIEW THE DROP-OUT REPORT WHICH WAS SUBMITTED IN 1973. — BERNAMA 1723/YF

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