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MAHATHIR
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P KUALA LUMPUR, AUG. 22 (BERNAMA) — EDUCATION MINISTER (DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY THE COUNTRY WILL CONTINUE TO FACE A SHORTAGE OF ABOUT 10,000 TEACHERS ANNUALLY OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS UNLESS RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF TEACHERS ARE INTENSIFIED.

HE SAID THE SHORTAGE, BASED ON THE PRESENT TEACHER-CLASS RATIO, WOULD INCREASE IF THE RATIO WAS IMPROVED.

OPENING THE CONFERENCE OF COLLEGE PRINCIPALS AT THE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE HERE, HE SAID MORE SERIOUS EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

HE ADDED THAT THE PRESENT PRODUCTION RATE OF ABOUT 3,000 TRAINED TEACHERS A YEAR WAS NOT SUFFICIENT.

DR. MAHATHIR WANTED TEACHERS COLLEGE PRINCIPALS TO GIVE EQUAL EMPHASIS TO QUALITY AND QUANTITY IN THEIR RECRUITMENT OF TRAINEE TEACHERS.—BERNAMA MORE 1234/BY

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MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY TAKEN SEVERAL MEASURES TOWARDS THIS END, INCLUDING THE SETTING UP OF FOUR TEMPORARY CENTRES TO TRAIN NORMAL TEACHERS AND A PROGRAMME TO TRAIN TEMPORARY TEACHERS.

HE HOPED THAT WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME NEXT YEAR, THE PROBLEM OF TEMPORARY TEACHER SHORTAGE WOULD NOT ARISE FOR THE NEXT THREE OR FOUR YEARS.

DR. MAHATHIR CALLED ON THE CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF SETTING UP A STAFF COLLEGE TO TRAIN EXPERIENCED TEACHERS AS AN INCENTIVE TO THEM TO IMPROVE THEMSELVES ACADEMICALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY.

THE SETTING UP SUCH A COLLEGE WOULD PRESENT A MEMORANDUM ON THE MATTER TO THE MINISTRY FOR CONSIDERATION.—BERNAMA MORE 1235/BY

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CORRECTION ITEM 20..SLUG MAHATHIR
2ND PARA SHOULD READ... PRESENT TEACHER-CLASS RATIO (RPT) RATIO
WOULD INCREASE IF THE RATIO (RPT) RATIO WAS IMPROVED.—BERNAMA
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DR. MAHATHIR ALSO CALLED ON COLLEGE PRINCIPALS AND LECTURERS TO IMPROVE THEIR ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BESIDES INVOLVING THEMSELVES IN PLANNING WORK.

HE WAS GLAD TO NOTE THAT SINCE 1973 MORE THAN 50 LACTURERS HAD UNDERGONE SPECIAL TRAINING COURSES LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THEY MAKE OVERSEAS TRIPS TO GET NEW IDEAS FOR TEACHER-TRAINING PROGRAMMES.—BERNAMA 1240/BY