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MAHATHIR

P KUALA KURAU, AUG. 24 (BERNAMA)-- THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, SAID TODAY RURAL STUDENTS COMPRISE CLOSE TO 80 PER CENT OF THE ENROLMENT IN FULLY RESIDENTIAL AND SECONDARY SCIENCE SCHOOLS.

THEY ALSO REPRESENT THE MAJORITY OF STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER CENTRES OF HIGHER LEARNING.

THE SITUATION A FEW YEARS AGO WAS DIFFERENT WHEN ONLY CHILDREN FROM WELL-TO-DO FAMILIES COULD AFFORD EDUCATION, HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE NEW NATIONAL SCHOOL HERE.

THE SCHOOL COSTING \$160,000, CAN ACCOMMODATE ABOUT 500 STUDENTS IN ITS 10 CLASSROOMS.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE MINISTRY WAS PROVIDING MORE FACILITIES FROM TIME TO TIME SUCH AS THE TEXT-BOOK LOAN SCHEME TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE RURAL AREAS TO PURSUE KNOWLEDGE. 98

HE CALLED ON THEM TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THESE FACILITIES FOR THEIR BENEFIT. --BERNAMA MORE 1156/MD

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MAHATHIR 2 KUALA KURAU

THE MINISTER URGED STUDENTS TO TAKE PART IN OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THE GREEN BOOK PROJECTS AND ANTI-DENGUE CAMPAIGNS.

SUCH ACTIVITIES WOULD INSTIL IN THEM A SENSE OF SOCIAL VALUES. HE ADDED. --BERNAMA 1202/MD