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JITRA, OCT. 13 (BERNAMA)— EDUCATION MINISTER, (DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, SAID TODAY IT WAS THE DUTY OF SCHOOLS AND PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS TO STUDY AND RESOLVE PROBLEMS THAT AROSE IN THEIR SCHOOLS INSTEAD OF AIRING THEM IN THE NEWSPAPERS. THEY COULD ALSO REFER THE PROBLEMS TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF THE MINISTER HIMSELF.

OPENING A \$168,000 EXTENSION BUILDING OF SEKOLAH KEBANGSAAN DATO SYED NAHAR AT SANGLANG, 18 MILES FROM HERE, HE SAID THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE WHO LIKED TO AIR THEIR GRIEVANCES IN THE NEWSPAPERS.

HE CITED THE CASE WHERE A STUDENT IN NEGRI SEMBILAN WAS ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN BEATEN BY THE TEACHER UNTIL HE BLED, AND AS A RESULT, MANY PUPILS DID NOT DARE GO TO SCHOOL.

ANOTHER ALLEGATION WAS THAT IN SELANGOR MANY HEADTEACHERS COULD NOT GET CLERKS AND HAD TO PERFORM CLERICAL DUTIES THEMSELVES. —BERNAMA MORE 1723/MD

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DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT SUCH MATTERS SHOULD HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PROPER AUTHORITIES INSTEAD OF THE PRESS. IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL THOSE CONNECTED WITH THE SCHOOL TO GUARD ITS GOOD NAME AND TO ENSURE THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS HAD BEEN SET UP THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO HELP RUN THE SCHOOLS. THIS WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS SPENT BY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO SOCIETY WITH STUDENTS DOING WELL IN THEIR STUDIES. —BERNAMA 1731/MD

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