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PETALING JAYA, OCT. 25 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA HAS AN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF LESS THAN EIGHT PERCENT, MUCH LOWER THAN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, SAID TODAY.

THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE PROUD THAT THE COUNTRY HAD SUCH A LOW UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE WORKSHOP ORGANISED BY THE PETALING JAYA ROTARY CLUB AT THE LA SALLE SECONDARY SCHOOL HERE.

HOWEVER THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE A COMPLACENT ATTITUDE BUT SHOULD CO-OPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN BRINGING THE RATE EVEN FURTHER DOWN.

DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THE GOVERNMENT WAS RESOLVED TO FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT +ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF YOUTHS INVOLVED.+

+EACH YEAR THOUSANDS ENTER THE LABOUR MARKET WHO WILL RAISE THE UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURE IF THERE ARE NO JOBS FOR THEM.+

HE ADVISED STUDENTS TO STUDY THE JOBS AVAILABLE BEFORE THEY LEFT SCHOOL.

THEY SHOULD ACQUIRE SOME KNOWLEDGE OF EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS AND THEIR APTITUDE. -- BERNAMA MORE 1222/A1

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SUCH A KNOWLEDGE WOULD ENABLE THEM TO CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES RESPONSIBLY AND COMPETENTLY WHEN THEY WERE OFFERED JOBS.

THE MINISTER ALSO ADVISED YOUTHS TO CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE OF HANKERING AFTER TOWN JOBS AND JOIN GOVERNMENT LAND SCHEMES.

THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE DEPENDED ON THE CORRECT BALANCE BEING STRUCK BETWEEN ITS INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

A MODERN FARMER FARMING COMMERCIALY WOULD BE BETTER OFF THAN MANY BLUE COLLAR WORKERS IN TOWNS.

DR. MAHATHIR HOPED THE WORKSHOP WOULD DISCUSS THE ROLE OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND THE OPPORTUNITIES IT OFFERED.

+WE HOPE TO INCREASE OUR PRODUCTION OF FOOD AND OTHER COMMODITIES REQUIRED BY THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR AND TO REDUCE THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY DEVELOPING THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.+ -- BERNAMA 1226/A1

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