

(F)
B:
MAHATHIR-BOOKS
BM

44
BATU PAHAT, FEB. 8 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT IS INVESTIGATING INTO ALLEGED MALPRACTICES IN THE SCHOOL TEXT-BOOKS LOAN SCHEME IN WHICH BOOKS WERE RESOLD TO BOOK-SHOPS.

DISCLOSING THIS TODAY, THE EDUCATION MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS VIEWING THE MATTER SERIOUSLY AS IT WAS A LOSS NOT ONLY TO THE GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO TO THE STUDENTS WHO WERE ENTITLED TO THE TEXT-BOOKS.

(P) SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF AN EXTENSION BUILDING OF THE SERI MERLONG NATIONAL SCHOOL IN RENGIT NEAR HERE, HE ADDED THAT SUCH MALPRACTICES CAME TO LIGHT WHEN SEVERAL BOOKS ISSUED UNDER THE LOAN SCHEME WERE DISCOVERED IN SOME PRIVATE BOOK SHOPS.

+ON THE BOOKS WERE CLEARLY SEEN THE SCHOOL CHOPS AND INDEX NUMBERS, + HE SAID.

PARENTS OF STUDENTS WHO DID NOT RECEIVE THE FREE TEXT-BOOKS HAD BOUGHT SUCH BOOKS FROM THE BOOK-SHOPS. — BERNAMA MORE 1223/A1

(F)
B:
MAHATHIR-BOOKS 2 BATU PAHAT

MR. MAHATHIR PRAISED THESE PARENTS FOR BRINGING THE MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTRY.

HE ALSO URGED STUDENTS TO APPRECIATE AND TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE FREE TEXT-BOOKS PROVIDED FOR THEY COULD BE USED AGAIN BY OTHER STUDENTS.

+WE MUST NOT CONSIDER THE FREE BOOKS AS HAVING NO VALUE, BUT SHOULD FEEL GRATEFUL FOR THEM AS THEY WOULD LESSEN THE BURDEN ON PARENTS AND ENSURE THAT STUDENTS GOT THEY BOOKS THEY NEED, + HE ADDED. — BERNAMA 1225/A1

(F)
B:
MAHATHIR-BOOKS 3 BATU PAHAT (REOPENS ITEM 16)

LATER, DR. MAHATHIR OPENED AN EXTENSION TO THE KAMPONG BARRU NATIONAL SCHOOL IN SENGGARANG COSTING \$180,000.

IN HIS SPEECH, HE ADVISED PARENTS NOT TO BE CHOOSY OVER THE CHOICE OF SCHOOLS FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

THIS ATTITUDE WAS PREVALENT AMONG PARENTS AS THEY CONSIDERED CERTAIN SCHOOLS TO BE GOOD AND OTHERS BAD.

"SUCH A PRACTICE MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE EDUCATION MINISTRY AND THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS TO PLACE STUDENTS," HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT IF THE SITUATION PREVAILED, SCHOOLS WHICH WERE ALREADY BIG WOULD BECOME BIGGER WHILE THE SMALL ONES WOULD NOT HAVE ANY STUDENTS TILL THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE CLOSED DOWN. —BERNAMA MORE 1430/LK

(F)
B:
MAHATHIR-BOOKS 4 BATU PAHAT

THE MINISTER SAID THAT WHEN SUCH A SITUATION AROSE, THE EMPLACEMENT OF TEACHERS ESPECIALLY HEAD-MASTERS WOULD BECOME A PROBLEM.

PARENTS WOULD ALSO OPPOSE THE CLOSING DOWN OF THE SMALLER SCHOOLS.

DR. MAHATHIR HOPED THAT PARENTS WOULD UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM AND COOPERATE WITH THE MINISTRY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THEIR CHILDREN. —BERNAMA 1432/LK