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MAHATHIR-EDUCATION

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SEGAMAT, MARCH 6 (BERNAMA)--- DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY HIS APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER WOULD HELP HIM SOLVE THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS FACING THE EDUCATION MINISTRY.

HE SAID HE NOW HAD A GREATER RESPONSIBILITY AND +PERHAPS A LITTLE MORE POWER, AND I WILL USE THIS TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS FACING THE EDUCATION MINISTRY.+

DR. MAHATHIR, WHO RETAINED THE EDUCATION PORTFOLIO IN THE NEW CABINET, SAID HE HAD TRIED TO SOLVE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER WAS ADDRESSING A MEETING WITH HEADMISTERS AND SENIOR TEACHERS HERE - HIS FIRST OFFICIAL FUNCTION SINCE DATO' HUSSEIN ONN ANNOUNCED HIS NEW APPOINTMENT YESTERDAY.

COMMENTING ON REQUESTS FOR WAGE INCREASES AND OTHER DEMANDS BY SCHOOL HEADS AND TEACHERS, DR. MAHATHIR REMINDED THEM TO CONSIDER THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, HAD NOW TO CHANNEL MORE FUNDS FOR DEFENCE. ---BERNAMA MORE 1418/MD

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MAHATHIR-EDUCATION 2 SEGAMAT

IN FACT, HE HAD DIRECTED THE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION OF HIS MINISTRY TO REVIEW STRUCTURAL PLANS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS TO SUIT THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THE EDUCATION SERVICE HAD THE SOLE AIM OF IMPARTING EDUCATION TO THE YOUNG.

ON CALLS BY CERTAIN QUARTERS TO LOWER THE ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS FOR TEACHERS SO THAT MORE COULD BE EMPLOYED, DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS WENT AGAINST THE AIMS OF THE COUNTRY'S EDUCATION SERVICE.

+THESE PEOPLE ARE ONLY THINKING OF THEIR OWN INTERESTS BUT THEY FORGET THE FACT THAT THE SERVICE IS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE YOUNG, AND THE HIGHER THE QUALIFICATIONS, THE BETTER THE EDUCATION THE CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE.+ HE SAID. ---BERNAMA 1422/MD