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MAHATHIR-TEACHERS

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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 8 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT IS TO RECRUIT ABOUT 10,000 NEW TEACHERS NEXT YEAR, A 300 PER CENT RISE OVER PREVIOUS YEARS.

ACCORDING TO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, THIS WILL BRING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TEACHERS NEXT YEAR TO 80,000.

HE SAID THIS YEAR THE RECRUITMENT TOTALLED 8,000 TEACHERS COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS FIGURES OF ONLY 3,600 ANNUALLY.

DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE EDUCATION MINISTER, WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT FEDERAL HOUSE HERE TODAY.

HE SAID SOME CLASS-ROOMS CONTAINED AS MANY AS 50 STUDENTS AND THIS WAS NOT A HEALTHY SITUATION.

THE EDUCATION MINISTRY PLANNED TO SET UP FOUR MORE TEACHERS COLLEGES. AS A SHORT-TERM MEASURE, ALL COLLEGES HAD BEEN DIRECTED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1342/YF

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MAHATHIR-TEACHERS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DR. MAHATHIR SAID HIS MINISTRY WAS STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF USING CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION IN TRAINING TEACHERS.

HE SAID THE PROVISION OF IN-SERVICE TRAINING TO 12,000 TEMPORARY TEACHERS COULD BE DONE IN FOUR OR FIVE YEARS.

THE MINISTRY WAS ALSO STUDYING WHETHER IT WAS BENEFICIAL TO MAINTAIN FORM SIX EDUCATION BECAUSE A MEMORANDUM FROM EDUCATIONISTS HAD DEEMED IT UNNECESSARY.

ON HIS NEW DUTIES AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD ASSIST DATO' HUSSEIN IN THE DAILY AFFAIRS AT THE NATION BUT MAINTAINED THAT HE WOULD CONCENTRATE MORE ON HIS DUTIES AS EDUCATION MINISTER.

ON A SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOCATION FOR THE EDUCATION MINISTRY, HE SAID THE SECURITY PROBLEM HAD TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY.

EARLIER, DR. MAHATHIR WAS GIVEN A ROUSING WELCOME BY OFFICERS OF HIS MINISTRY, WHO EXTENDED THEIR CONGRATULATIONS ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. -- BERNAMA 1345/YF