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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 9 (BERNAMA)-- DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD WITH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM ON RECOGNITION OF CERTIFICATES OF EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED IN BAHASA MALAYSIA.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION BY COUNTRIES LIKE THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES CERTIFICATES OF EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH WAS +AN OLD ISSUE+.

THIS WAS BECAUSE MANY STUDENTS IN THE U.K. AND U.S. WERE FROM COUNTRIES WHICH HAD NO +ENGLISH SCHOOLS+, HE SAID.

OPENING THE EXTENSION BUILDING OF THE TELOK DATUK METHODIST ENGLISH SECONDARY SCHOOL, DR. MAHATHIR SAID THOSE WISHING TO GO OVERSEAS FOR FURTHER STUDIES WERE REQUIRED TO PASS A PROFICIENCY TEST IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE COUNTRY THEY WERE GOING TO.

FOR THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, PROVISIONS WOULD BE MADE TO HAVE THE TEST CONDUCTED LOCALLY, HE SAID. --BERNAMA MORE 1255/1B

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DR. MAHATHIR HOPED HIS CLARIFICATION WOULD BANISH DOUBTS THAT WITH ALL EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED IN BAHASA MALAYSIA THE CERTIFICATES WOULD HAVE NO +VALUE+ OR WOULD NOT BE RECOGNISED BY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES ABROAD.

HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE NO MISGIVINGS OVER THE ABOLITION OF FORM ONE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE STREAM FROM THIS YEAR.

THIS MEANT THT FROM 1978, ONLY THE SIJIL RENDAH PELAJARAN (SRP) EXAMINATION WOULD BE CONDUCTED, AND NO MORE THE LOWER CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (LCE) EXAMINATION.

BY THAT YEAR, ALL CLASSES UP TO FORM THREE WOULD HAVE BAHASA MALAY AS THE SOLE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM WAS CAPABLE OF ACCEPTING PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN FROM ALL STREAMS INTO FORM ONE FROM THIS YEAR. --BERNAMA MORE 1258/1B

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THERE WOULD BE PLACES IN FORM ONE FOR ALL PUPILS, HE ASSURED. HOWEVER, PUPILS FROM CHINESE AND TAMIL STREAM PRIMARY SCHOOLS WOULD HAVE TO ENTER A REMOVE CLASS FOR A YEAR BEFORE ENROLLING FOR FORM ONE PROPER.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT FROM THIS YEAR TOO, REMOVE CLASSES WOULD ONLY BE IN BAHASA MALAYSIA IN LINE WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY OF HAVING BAHASA MALAYSIA AS THE SOLE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION.

HE HOPED PARENTS REALISED THIS DEVELOPMENT SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE EDUCATION POLICY LATER ON IN EFFORTS TO FORGE SOLIDARITY AND ENSURE A DISCIPLINED AND SKILLED LABOUR FORCE.

DR. MAHATHIR ADVISED PARENTS TO HELP TEACHERS INSTIL DISCIPLINE SO THAT SOCIETY WAS NOT THREATENED BY +UNDISCIPLINED PEOPLE+.

ONLY THROUGH THIS WOULD ANY PROJECT BE IMPLEMENTED SMOOTHLY AND ENABLE PROGRESS TO BE ACHIEVED. HE ADDED --BERNAMA 1302/1B