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SULTAN-MAHATHIR  
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ALOR STAR, MARCH 18 (BERNAMA)-- DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD REVISE THE APPROACH AND CONTENT OF COMMERCIAL STUDIES IN SCHOOLS TO MAKE THEM MORE RELEVANT AND PRACTICAL TO THE DAILY LIFE OF PUPILS.

THIS WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE BUMIPUTRA PUPILS WERE FAR BEHIND IN THE SUBJECT, HE SAID AT A DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR THE EXTENSION BUILDING OF SEKOLAH KEBANGSAAN SERI AMAR DI RAJA AT ALOR MERAH, NEAR HERE TODAY. THE CEREMONY WAS PERFORMED BY THE SULTAN OF KEDAH.

ALSO PRESENT WERE THE SULTANAH, THE DEPUTY PREMIER'S WIFE, DR. SITI HASNAH, MENTRI BESAR DATO' SRI SYED AHMAD SHAHABUDDIN AND HIS WIFE.

DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE EDUCATION MINISTER, SAID THAT COMMERCE WAS NOW ONLY AN OPTIONAL SUBJECT FOR FORM ONE PUPILS.

HE HOPED THAT MORE PUPILS, ESPECIALLY RURAL BUMIPUTRAS, WOULD TAKE UP THE SUBJECT.

+PUPILS OUGHT TO BE TAUGHT NOT ONLY WHAT HAPPENS IN FRONT OF A BUSINESSMAN'S COUNTER BUT ALSO WHAT TAKES PLACE BEHIND,+ HE SAID. --BERNAMA MORE 1603/MD

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SULTAN-MAHATHIR 2 ALOR STAR

→ IN HIS SPEECH, THE SULTAN DESCRIBED SCHOOLS AS A FORCE TO FULFIL THE HOPE OF EVERY SECTION OF THE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THE EDUCATIONISTS, PARENTS AND PUPILS.

HE SAID THAT THE FUTURE OF THE PUPILS DEPENDED ON THE TYPE OF EDUCATION GIVEN THEM BY THE EDUCATORS.

THIS AFTERNOON, IN ANOTHER SPEECH, DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S HOPE TO EQUIP EVERY SCHOOL WITH ALL FACILITIES.

THE SPEECH WAS READ BY THE STATE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, ENCIK JUMAAT BIN MOHAMED NOOR, AT THE OPENING OF A PRAYER HALL AT SEKOLAH KEBANGSAAN DATUK SHAARI AT KUBANG ROTAN, NEAR HERE.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IF THE LABORATORY WAS VITAL TO SCIENCE EDUCATION, THE PRAYER HALL WAS EQUALLY IMPORTANT FOR RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES AND TRAINING.

KNOWLEDGE ALONE WOULD NOT MAKE A MUSLIM A WHOLE PERSON IF HE HAD NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

HE SAID THAT THE DUTY FOR PROVIDING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WAS NOT THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO THAT OF PARENTS.

THE PEOPLE MUST THEREFORE CONTRIBUTE PART OF THE COST OF RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES SUCH AS BUILDING PRAYER HALLS, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA M