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KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 4 (BERNAMA)-- DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID INCREASING STUDENT ENROLMENT WOULD NOT BE BENEFICIAL IF AN INSTITUTION COULD NOT PRODUCE A PASS RATE IN PROPORTION TO THE STUDENT ENROLMENT.

+IT IS BETTER TO ACCEPT 10 STUDENTS WHO ARE QUALIFIED THAN 100 WHO DO NOT HAVE THE STANDARD AND ABILITY TO FOLLOW THE COURSES,+ HE SAID.

DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS THE EDUCATION MINISTER, SAID THIS WHEN WINDING UP THE DEBATE ON THE MARA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY 1976 BILL IN THE DEWAN NEGARA TODAY.

THE BILL SEEKS TO CONVERT THE MIT INTO A STATUTORY AUTHORITY UNDER THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. IT WAS PASSED.

DR. MAHATHIR EXPLAINED THAT THE MAIN AIM OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WAS TO IMPART KNOWLEDGE TO STUDENTS. --BERNAMA MORE 2010/1B

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THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO INCREASE THE ENROLMENT AT THE MIT BUT MORE FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT MUST FIRST BE PROVIDED.

HE SAID THAT INSTEAD OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS, IT WAS BETTER TO RECRUIT MORE LECTURERS TO HELP THE STUDENTS IN THEIR COURSES.

ON THE PROPOSAL TO OPEN MORE MIT BRANCH CAMPUSES, DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS A GOOD SUGGESTION BUT IT WOULD NOT PRODUCE SATISFACTORY RESULTS.

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO COULD NOT OPEN MORE BRANCH CAMPUSES BECAUSE OF A SHORTAGE OF FUNDS, HE ADDED.

HE ALSO TOLD THE UPPER HOUSE THAT NEARLY ALL THE MIT STUDENTS WERE GIVEN SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE INSTITUTE. -- PERNAMA MORE 2018/1B

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THE STUDENTS WERE ALSO EXEMPTED FROM PAYING FEES AND GIVEN FREE ACCOMMODATION AND POCKET-MONEY.

IN ADDITION, SOME PRIVATE FIRMS GAVE SCHOLARSHIPS TO SELECTED STUDENTS.

REPLYING TO A PROPOSAL BY SENATOR DATUK WEE KHOONHOCK THAT THE MIT BE OPENED TO NON-BUMIPUTRA STUDENTS, DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE MAIN AID OF SETTING UP THE MIT WAS TO PRODUCE QUALIFIED BUMIPUTRAS TO WORK IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT NON-BUMIPUTRA STUDENTS WERE NOT RESTRICTED FROM ENROLLING IN OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING LIKE THE UNGKU OMAR POLYTECHNIC. -- BERNAMA MORE 2025/1B

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DURING THE DEBATE, SENATOR HAJI KHALID ABDULLAH CRITICISED CERTAIN PEOPLE FOR DOUBTING THE ROLE AND FUNCTION OF THE MIT.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE MIT ADMINISTRATION HOLD DIALOGUE SESSIONS TO EXPLAIN THE POSITION AND ROLE OF THE MIT.

SENATOR IBRAHIM HAJI YAACOB WANTED THE MINISTRY TO INCREASE THE STUDENT ENROLEMENT IN THE MIT AND TO RELAX ENTRY CONDITIONS.

HE ALSO URGED THE MINISTRY TO INCREASE THE TEACHING STAFF AND, IF NECESSARY, TO RECRUIT THEM FROM OVERSEAS.

SENATOR SYED OMAR SYED HUSSIN ASKED THE MIT TO OPEN MORE BRANCH CAMPUSES.

HE CONGRATULATED THE MIT DIRECTOR DATUK LOKMAN MUSA FOR HIS INITIATIVE IN BRIEFING LEADERS AND THE PUBLIC ON THE MIT.

HE SAID THE BRIEFINGS HAD CLEARED THE PUBLIC'S MISCONCEPTION OF THE MIT.

THE SENATOR ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE MIT ALLOWED LOCAL RESIDENTS TO DO BUSINESS IN THE MIT CAMPUSES. --BERNAMA MORE 2038/MD

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SENATOR HAJI MOHAMED AMIN SPOKE ON THE NON-REPRESENTATION OF STUDENTS ON THE MIT COUNCIL, AND HE FEARED THAT THIS WOULD RESULT IN RESTLESSNESS AMONG THE STUDENTS.

SENATOR DATUK HAJI AHMAD ARSHAD CRITICISED CERTAIN GROUPS FOR MAKING IMPROPER STATEMENTS ON THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MIT.

HE SAID EVERY CITIZEN WHO LOVED THE NATION SHOULD NOT SUSPECT OR RAISE THE ISSUE OF THE HUGE SUMS SPENT ON THE MIT.

HE ALSO CALLED FOR A BRANCH CAMPUS TO BE OPENED IN JOHORE IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS FROM THE STATE.

SENATOR ISMAIL SHEIKH IBRAHIM ASKED FOR A BIGGER ALLOCATION TO BE GIVEN TO THE PERLIS MIT CAMPUS.

HE REGRETTED THAT MIT WAS USING ENGLISH WIDELY IN ITS COURSES. HE CLAIMED THAT THIS WAS CAUSING DIFFICULTIES TO STUDENTS FROM NATIONAL SCHOOLS. --BERNAMA MORE 2049/MD

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IN MOVING THE BILL, DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO RE-ORGANISE THE MIT TO MAKE IT MORE EFFECTIVE.

THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT SET UP THE MIT MERELY TO PROVIDE A SPECIAL INSTITUTION FOR BUMIPUTRAS, HE SAID.

IT WAS SET UP BECAUSE THE PRODUCTION OF TRAINED BUMIPUTRAS WAS VITAL TO THE NATION, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT IF UNDESIRABLE INCIDENTS LIKE DEMONSTRATIONS FREQUENTLY OCCURRED AND DISRUPT CALM ON THE CAMPUS, THE MIT CERTAINLY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PLAY ITS ROLE. --BERNAMA 2055/MD

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