

(F)
25
MAHATHIR
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 16 (BERNAMA) -- DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED URGED TEACHERS TODAY TO ADAPT THEMSELVES TO CHANGES IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THEIR TASKS MORE EFFECTIVELY.

HE SAID TEACHERS SHOULD ALSO GIVE PRIORITY TO WELFARE AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF THEIR STUDENTS AS WELL AS ADOPT A FAIR ATTITUDE WITHOUT ANY SHOW OF FAVOURITISM TOWARDS THEM.

LAUNCHING TEACHERS DAY CELEBRATIONS HERE, DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO EDUCATION MINISTER, STRESSED THE YOUNG SHOULD BE TAUGHT TO BE SOUND IN THEIR OPINIONS AND THINKING AND TO ANALYSE PROBLEMS BEFORE WORKING OUT RATIONAL SOLUTIONS TO THEM.

GOOD MORALS AND VALUES SHOULD BE IMPARTED TO THEM SO THEY BE PEOPLE OF DISCIPLINE AND PRINCIPLES WHO WOULD NOT BE INFLUENCED BY UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1307/YF

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31:

MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THAT TEACHERS MUST AVOID DOING ANYTHING THAT COULD MAKE THEIR PUPILS LOSE FAITH IN THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.

TEACHERS MUST ALSO NOT PROPAGATE ANY TEACHINGS WHICH WERE AGAINST THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RUKUNEGARA OR WHICH COULD BRING RUIN TO THE PUPILS, SOCIETY OR THE NATION.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THIS YEAR'S TEACHERS' DAY THEME -- MORAL EDUCATION IN AN ERA OF PROGRESS -- WAS IN LINE WITH THE NEEDS OF THE TIMES.

HE SAID THAT THE PROGRESS AND HAPPINESS OF ANY COMMUNITY COULD NOT BE MAINTAINED WITH ONLY MATERIAL WEALTH.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS MATERIAL WEALTH COULD BRING ABOUT MORAL DECADENCE AMONG THE PEOPLE AND MAKE THEIR LIVES UNSTABLE.

-- BERNAMA MORE 1440/SZ

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MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE ALSO STRESSED THAT IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE EDUCATION FOR THE CHILDREN SO THAT THEY COULD UNDERSTAND THE CULTURES OF THE NATION AND GAIN KNOWLEDGE TO MEET THE CHALLENGES AHEAD.

IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN WERE OF GOOD BEHAVIOUR, DISCIPLINED, PREPARED TO SERVE AND SACRIFICE FOR THE COMMUNITY, COUNTRY AND RELIGION.

DR. MAHATHIR ALSO GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT HE WOULD HELP TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS FACED IN SETTING UP A TEACHERS FOUNDATION IN THE INTEREST OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION.

HE CALLED ON THE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE THEIR WORK UNTIL A FOUNDATION FULLY OWNED BY TEACHERS WAS CREATED.

EARLIER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL TEACHERS DAY CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE, ENCIK KUM BOO, SAID THE MAIN TASKS OF TEACHERS WAS TO PROVIDE HIGH MORAL EDUCATION TO THEIR PUPILS TO BUILD A STRONG COMMUNITY. -- BERNAMA MORE 1443/SZ

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MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THAT PARENTS AND TEACHERS SHOULD PLAY THE ROLE OF RESPONSIBLE AGENTS AND HELP TO MAINTAIN THE IDENTITY OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION.

THE PARTICIPANTS LATER READ THE TEACHERS PLEDGE AND HANDED IT TO DR. MAHATHIR.

HE LATER PRESENTED GOLD MEDALS TO FIVE TEACHERS -- ONE AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY -- WHO HAD MADE CONTRIBUTIONS NOT ONLY IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION BUT ALSO IN COMMUNITY SERVICE.

THE POSTHUMOUS AWARD WAS MADE TO THE LATE HAJI KASSIM HARUN, A FORMER SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE WEST MALAYSIA MALAY TEACHERS' UNION AND SECRETARY OF THE TEACHERS PANEL, TEACHERS NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL. -- BERNAMA MORE 1447/SZ

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MAHATHIR 5 KUALA LUMPUR

THE MEDAL WAS RECEIVED BY HIS SON, AMIR, WHO IS STUDYING AT THE SEKOLAH JALAN GURNEY.

OTHER RECIPIENTS WERE MUHAMAD HAJI ABDULLAH FROM KELANTAN WHO HAS RETIRED BUT IS STILL ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY WORK, ENCIK ALI MOHAMED YUNUS OF JOHORE, ENCIK TAN CHEE MENG OF PERAK AND ENCIK V.K. THILLAIKANNU OF NEGRI SEMBILAN.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE CEREMONY WAS THE PRESENTATION OF A BOOK CONTAINING THE CODE OF ETHICS OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION BY ENCIK KAM BOO TO DR. MAHATHIR.

THE BOOK LISTS SIX IMPORTANT FACTORS REGARDING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A TEACHER TOWARDS THE SOCIETY, NATION, STUDENTS, PARENTS, COLLEAGUES AND THE PROFESSION. -- BERNAMA 1450/SZ