

NO27 (F)  
MAHATHIR  
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76 (91)  
KUALA LUMPUR, AUG. 16 (BERNAMA) -- ABOUT \$41.5 MILLION WILL BE SPENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION UNDER THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY.

HE ADDED THAT NINE MORE VOCATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS WOULD BE BUILT IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA, BRINGING THE TOTAL TO 30 BY THE END OF THE PLAN PERIOD.

DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE EDUCATION MINISTER SAID THE NUMBER OF SUCH SCHOOLS IN SABAH AND SARAWAK WOULD BE INCREASED BESIDES ENLARGING THE EXISTING ONES. 173

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AND PRIZE GIVING DAY OF THE SETAPAK VOCATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL HERE, HE SAID THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO 21,540 IN 1980 AS COMPARED TO 13,694 LAST YEAR. -- BERNAMA MORE 1324/YF

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DR. MAHATHIR EXPLAINED THAT VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS WERE MEANT FOR STUDENTS WHO WISHED TO ACQUIRE BASIC SKILL IN TECHNICAL SUBJECTS SUCH AS INDUSTRIAL ARTS.

HE MADE THE CLARIFICATION AS THERE WERE STUDENTS AND PARENTS WHO WERE NOT CLEAR ABOUT THE AIMS OF SUCH SCHOOLS RESULTING IN THE STUDENTS WANTING TO FURTHER THEIR STUDIES IN UNIVERSITIES.

THIS WAS ONE OF THE REASONS SUCH STUDENTS HAD FAILED IN THEIR STUDIES, HE ADDED.

DR. MAHATHIR URGED SUCH STUDENTS TO CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE IMMEDIATELY AND ADVISED THOSE PLANNING TO JOIN SUCH SCHOOLS NOT TO DO SO AS A MEANS TO FURTHER THEIR STUDIES IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

THE MINISTER ASSURED THAT HIS MINISTRY WOULD GIVE SERIOUS ATTENTION TO COURSES IN INDUSTRIAL ARTS, HOME SCIENCE, AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

THE MINISTRY WOULD ALSO REVIEW THE CURRICULUM IN VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS, TRAIN MORE TEACHERS AND SEEK THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S CO-OPERATION TO EMPLOY MORE STUDENTS WHO PASSED OUT FROM SUCH SCHOOLS. -- BERNAMA 1329/YF