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KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 25 (BERNAMA) -- PROPER LANGUAGE PLANNING WILL FORTIFY THE STATUS OF A NATIONAL LANGUAGE AND THE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION, SAID DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED TODAY.

OPENING THE 4TH. CONFERENCE OF THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION ON NATIONAL LANGUAGES HERE, HE SAID IT WOULD ALSO ENABLE THE LANGUAGE TO BE SCIENTIFIC AS WELL AS ACADEMIC AND WAS AN IMPORTANT ITEM IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' NATION BUILDING PROGRAMME.

HE SAID THAT IN MALAYSIA BEFORE INDEPENDENCE, THE PEOPLE WERE PLACED IN A VARIETY OF MOULDS WITH DIFFERENT LANGUAGES AS MEDIA OF INSTRUCTION.

IF THE PEOPLE COULD BE EDUCATED IN ONE AND THE SAME LANGUAGE +THEN WE CAN BE CERTAIN WE CAN EVOLVE A NATION WHICH IS UNITED - A NATION CONSISTING OF PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE UNFOUNDED PREJUDICE AGAINST ONE ANOTHER AND A NATION WHICH IS PROUD TO HAVE ITS OWN IDENTITY.+

HE ALSO SAID THAT IF CARRIED OUT SYSTEMATICALLY, LANGUAGE PLANNING COULD BRING A NATION CLOSE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN FIELDS OF STUDY COMING FROM ABROAD. - BERNAMA MORE 1247/HS  
MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

VARIOUS PROGRAMMES HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN LANGUAGE PLANNING SUCH AS SYSTEMATIC TEACHING OF LANGUAGE AND COINING OF SCIENTIFIC TERMS WHICH COULD BE USED AND ACCEPTED BY EXPERTS IN THE VARIOUS SCIENCES.

THERE WAS ALSO STANDARDISATION OF SPELLING AND COMPILATION OF DICTIONARY ADEQUATE FOR THE USE OF THE PEOPLE EITHER MONOLINGUALLY OR BILLINGUALLY.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE WRITING OF BOOKS IN THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE BY ACADEMICIANS AND SCIENTISTS WOULD PROVIDE SCIENTIFIC AND INTELLECTUAL FOOD FOR THE PEOPLE AND HELP DEVELOP THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE AS A LIVING LANGUAGE.

IN MALAYSIA, HE SAID, COLONISATION HAD GIVEN RISE TO A MISCONCEPTION THAT THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE WAS NOT CAPABLE OF BECOMING AN ACADEMIC OR SCIENTIFIC LANGUAGE.

HE SAID IF THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY HAD STRONG DETERMINATION TO ELEVATE THE STATUS OF THEIR LANGUAGE AND NOT JUST LEAVE IT AS ONE SUITABLE ONLY FOR INTERACTION AT MARKET PLACES, THE LANGUAGE COULD BECOME A LANGUAGE WELL SUITED FOR USE IN ANY CHOSEN FIELD. -  
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MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

EARLIER, THE HEAD OF THE MALAY STUDIES DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA, PROF. ISMAIL HUSSEIN SAID THAT IN TRYING TO UPHOLD THE USE OF THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE, LOYAL AND STRONG PARTICIPATION FROM THE ELITE GROUP WAS ESSENTIAL.

ABOUT 31 WORKING PAPERS WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE SIX-DAY CONFERENCE WHICH IS BEING ATTENDED BY PARTICIPANTS FROM MALAYSIA, INDONESIA, SINGAPORE, THAILAND, INDIA, JORDAN, AMERICA, BRITAIN, FRANCE, WEST GERMANY, CANADA AND AUSTRALIA. - BERNAMA