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JOHORE BHARU, APRIL 28 (BERNAMA) -- A SPECIAL PROJECT TO COLLECT DATA AND INFORMATION ON SCHOOLS, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA IS TO BE LAUNCHED SOON, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE EDUCATION MINISTER, SAID THE PROJECT, AIMED AT STREAMLINING FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES, WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE PLANNING AND RESEARCH DIVISION OF THE EDUCATION MINISTRY.

IT WOULD ENABLE THE MINISTRY TO KNOW THE TYPE OF FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN EACH SCHOOL, INCLUDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL MANPOWER.

DR. MAHATHIR WAS OPENING THE 16TH NATIONAL MEETING OF THE HEADS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN WEST MALAYSIA HERE.

MORE THAN 600 HEADS OF SCHOOLS ARE ATTENDING THE TWO-DAY MEETING. -- BERNAMA MORE 1327/A1

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MAHATHIR 2 JOHORE BHARU

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PROJECT, SCHEDULED TO BE LAUNCHED IN AUGUST, WOULD ENABLE THE MINISTRY TO PLAN ITS PROGRAMMES SYSTEMATICALLY AND THUS AVOIDING THE WASTAGE OF FUNDS.

IT WOULD ALSO SUPPLEMENT THE EFFORTS TO OVERCOME THE DROP-OUT PROBLEM.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID A SIMILAR PROJECT TO COLLECT DATA AND INFORMATION ON PROFESSIONAL STAFF IN THE EDUCATION MINISTRY AND DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO BE CARRIED OUT.

THE POSSIBILITY OF CARRYING OUT SIMILAR PROJECTS IN SABAH AND SARAWAK WOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE BOTH THE PROJECTS WOULD HELP IMPROVE THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY. -- BERNAMA MORE 1335/A1

MAHATHIR 3 JOHORE BHARU

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF EDUCATION WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY.

IT WAS THE DESIRE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO CREATE AN EDUCATED, UNITED, RESPONSIBLE AND DISCIPLINED SOCIETY TO ENSURE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS.

HE SAID IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES EFFECTIVELY, HEADS OF SCHOOLS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE GOVERNMENT POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT IN THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN.

EARLIER, THE PRESIDENT OF THE HEADS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION, ENCIK HARPAJAN SINGH, SAID EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO TIGHTEN THE DISCIPLINE IN SCHOOLS.

HE SAID LACK OF DISCIPLINE HAD CAUSED MORAL DECAY AMONG CERTAIN STUDENTS. -- BERNAMA 1356/A1