

MAHATHIR-EDUCATION
BM

JITRA, MAY 1 (BERNAMA) -- DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR A WELL-PLANNED EFFORT IN FORMULATING AND IMPLEMENTING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES, POLICIES AND TRAINING.

THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS EDUCATION AND TRAINING AS AN IMPORTANT TOOL FOR ACHIEVING THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE NATION -- INTEGRATION AND SOLIDARITY, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID.

THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO HELP RAISE THE LIVING STANDARD OF THE PEOPLE WOULD BE MADE DIFFICULT IF THE PEOPLE WERE DISUNITED, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE SEKOLAH RENDAH SULTAN AHMAT TAJUDDIN HERE.

THE USE OF BAHASA MALAYSIA IN STAGES AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION AT ALL LEVELS OF EDUCATION AAS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE PROMOTION OF INTEGRATION AND SOLIDARITY, HE ADDED.

DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE EDUCATION MINISTER, SAID THAT ACCORDING TO THE CURRENT PLAN, BAHASA MALAYSIA WOULD BECOME THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN ALL GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS BY 1990.

— BERNAMA MORE 1735/SZ

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HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE BEING TAUGHT AS A SECOND LANGUAGE WAS ALSO IMPORTANT BECAUSE MANY BOOKS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WERE WRITTEN IN THAT LANGUAGE.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THAT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES MUST BE PROVIDED IN ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY IN THE INTERIOR AND RURAL AREAS.

IN THIS CONNECTION, MUCH EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES HAD BEEN PROVIDED IN THESE AREAS.

THE GOVERNMENT NOT ONLY PROVIDED CLASSROOMS AND NEW SCHOOLS BUT ALSO OTHER FACILITIES SUCH AS THE TEXTBOOK LOAN SCHEME.

+ALL THIS SHOWS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED OVER THE PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE AT ALL LEVELS SO THAT THEY CAN ENJOY THE NATION'S WEALTH TOGETHER, AND THUS EXPEDITE THE CREATION OF A JUST AND HARMONIOUS SOCIETY,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA MORE 1740/SZ

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DR. MAHATHIR SAID MUCH MORE EFFORTS WERE BEING TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY.

UNDER THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN, SEVERAL STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TO PUT THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND TRAINING IN LINE WITH THE MANPOWER NEEDS, HE SAID.

MORE ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS SUBJECTS AT THE LOWER SECONDARY LEVEL AND MORE TEACHING AIDS AND TRAINED SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS TEACHERS WERE PROVIDED.

UNDER THE PLAN, THE NUMBER OF SCIENCE, TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL STUDENTS AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL WOULD ALSO BE INCREASED, HE SAID.

THE SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION OF PARENTS AND SOCIETY WERE REQUIRED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS EFFORTS TO CARRY OUT THESE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, HE ADDED.

— BERNAMA 1745/SZ