

Mahathir on the N.S.T. 14 MAY 1977 kind of teachers we need

By REJAL ARBEE

SANDAKAN, Fri. — The country needs teachers who are dedicated and will educate the nation's young to be good and useful citizens, (Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"The teachers that we want must also be willing and prepared to sacrifice their time and energy to nurture the children with love and care," he said when opening the \$4.8 million teachers college in this timber town today.

Dr. Mahathir who is the Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister said the idea is to develop and educate the children so that they could later be of service to the nation, protect the country's values and traditions and defend the Rukunegara.

Dedicated

Dr. Mahathir who arrived here this morning from Tawau to continue his official visit of the State said the Education Ministry was doing its best to train teachers who could not only teach the various subjects but who are also dedicated and have a high sense of professionalism.

Apart from conducting in-service training and giving them better salaries, the Ministry had also drawn up a set of Code of Conduct for them.

The code provides guidelines for the teachers to be aware of their responsibilities so that they would not digress from the real objectives of their profession.

Dr. Mahathir said he believed that all teachers were aware of their responsibilities and it was now up to them to carry out their tasks well in order to achieve the nation's educational objectives.

He said that despite the opening of the college, the third in the State, Sabah would continue to face a shortage of trained teachers and would

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still need the services of those from Peninsular Malaysia.

The need would be especially great with the abolishment of the Standard Six examination next year when every child in the State would be assured of schooling till the lower secondary level.

He said from 1972 till last year a total of 337 trained teachers from teachers' colleges in Peninsular Malaysia have been sent to serve in the State.

The need for trained teachers in Sabah could be seen from the fact that more than a third of the total teaching force of 6,391 were untrained.

The three colleges, Gaya in Kota Kinabalu, Kent in Tuaran and the Sandakan College could only train a total of 400 teachers a year.

To meet the increasing needs of teachers, the three colleges would be further expanded and a fourth college would be set up in Keningau during the Third Malaysia Plan period.

At the same time, untrained teachers were being given basic training courses at the colleges during the school holidays.

The course has a set timetable that all the 2,260 untrained teachers would have been trained by 1984.

The Ministry is also undertaking in-service training for teachers and lecturers to keep them informed on new educational developments.

Earlier, Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Harris Salleh said the Sabah Government was giving serious attention to Islamic education in schools.

From this year, the Education Department had taken over the administration of religious school teachers from the State Religious Council.

He hoped that with the take-over religious education in schools in the State would be improved.

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