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KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 16 (BERNAMA) — DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD URGED THE PEOPLE TODAY TO GIVE DUE RECOGNITION TO THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY TEACHERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO SERVE IN THE INTERIOR AND ISOLATED AREAS.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THOUGH THERE WERE CERTAIN SHORTCOMINGS, HE BELIEVED THAT TEACHERS ON THE WHOLE HAD MADE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY IN THE COUNTRY.

DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO EDUCATION MINISTER, WAS LAUNCHING THE TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS AT THE DEWAN TUNKU CANSOLOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA HERE.

HE HOPED HOWEVER THAT THE TEACHERS, WHILE CELEBRATING THE DAY, WOULD REVIEW THEIR SHORTCOMINGS WITH A VIEW TO RECTIFYING THEM.

THIS EFFORT WAS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT AS TEACHERS EXISTED FOR THE STUDENTS AND AS SUCH THE INTERESTS OF THE STUDENTS SHOULD BE PLACED BEFORE THEIR OWN. — BERNAMA MORE 1150/YF

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NO22 (F)
MAHATHIR-TEACHERS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SPOKE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PARENTS AND TEACHERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION.

+WITH PROPER UNDERSTANDING, WE WILL BE ABLE TO REDUCE MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND THIS UNDERSTANDING WILL LEAD TO MORE COOPERATION FOR GREATER PROGRESS,+ HE SAID.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND ALLEGATIONS WOULD NOT BE BENEFICIAL TO ANYONE.

IT WAS NOT FAIR TO BLAME ANY PARTY FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S WEAKNESS IN THEIR STUDIES WITHOUT INVESTIGATING THE SITUATION.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATION, +DEDICATION AND DISCIPLINE, THE BASIS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS+ AS VERY APT.

HE SAID THAT AT PRESENT, EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS WAS THREATENED BY UNDESIRABLE INFLUENCES IN THE COMMUNITY. — BERNAMA MORE 1158/YF

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NO23 (F)
MAHATHIR-TEACHERS 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THAT VARIOUS UNDESIRABLE INFLUENCES SUCH AS ANTI-NATIONAL ELEMENTS, IMMORAL ACTIVITIES, DRUG ABUSE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT LED TO MORAL DEGRADATION EXISTED IN LARGE TOWNS SUCH AS KUALA LUMPUR.

CHILDREN EXPOSED TO SUCH ELEMENTS AND WOULD EASILY FALL PREY TO THEM IF THEY WERE NOT TAUGHT PROPER VALUES IN LIFE.

HE SAID THAT IF TEACHERS COULD NOT PROVIDE SUPERVISION AND GUIDANCE OR FAILED TO DISCIPLINE THEMSELVES, THEIR STUDENTS WOULD NEITHER PROGRESS IN THEIR STUDIES NOR OBTAIN A SOUND MORAL GROUNDING.

+I BELIEVE THAT THOUGH A STUDENT POSSESSES INBORN CAPABILITY, HE CAN STILL FAIL IF HE IS EXPOSED TO UNHEALTHY INFLUENCES IN HIS SCHOOL,+ HE SAID.

DR. MAHATHIR ALSO REMINDED PARENTS THAT THEY COULD NOT ESCAPE FROM THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUPERVISING THE YOUNGER GENERATION AND TEACHING THEM PROPER BEHAVIOUR.

+OUR CHILDREN SPEND MORE TIME OUTSIDE THEIR SCHOOLS AND AS SUCH THEY ARE MORE EXPOSED TO THE INFLUENCES OF SOCIETY OUTSIDE,+ HE SAID. — BERNAMA MORE 1158/YF

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MAHATHIR-TEACHERS 4 KUALA LUMPUR

HE CALLED ON PARENTS TO IMPOSE STRICTER DISCIPLINE ON THEIR CHILDREN AS WELL AS ON THEMSELVES.

EARLIER, DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT 2.8 MILLION CHILDREN WERE NOW ATTENDING FULLY GOVERNMENT ASSISTED SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY.

A TOTAL OF 97,247 TEACHERS WERE TEACHING IN 7,250 FULLY-AIDED SCHOOLS.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE STATISTICS INDICATED THE MAGNITUDE OF THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TEACHERS IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

HE HOPED THAT THE ANNUAL TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS WOULD LEAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY. — BERNAMA 1200/YF

MAHATHIR-TEACHERS 5 KUALA LUMPUR (REOPEN ITEM 024)

EARLIER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TEACHERS' DAY 1977 CELEBRATION COMMITTEE, ENCIK KUM BOO, DESCRIBED THE OCCASION AS A POSITIVE WAY OF RECOGNISING THE SERVICE OF TEACHERS.

MORE THAN 3,000 TEACHERS ATTENDED THE GATHERING.

ALSO PRESENT WERE THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S WIFE DR. SITI HASMAH; EDUCATION DEPUTY MINISTER HAJI SALLEH JAFARUDDIN, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF EDUCATION, DATUK HAJI MURAD MOHAMED NOOR AND MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. — BERNAMA 1333/AI