

MAHATHIR-HOUSEMEN

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KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 5 (BERNAMA) -- DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY +IT WOULD BE A SHAME FOR DOCTORS TO MAKE USE OF SICK PEOPLE TO GET MORE MONEY.+

+YOU CANNOT WITHHOLD SERVICE TO ASK FOR MORE PAY,+ HE SAID. IT WOULD BE UNETHICAL.+

HE WAS COMMENTING ON THE MOVE BY THE UNION OF MALAYSIAN HOUSEMEN TO REJECT THE GOVERNMENT'S OFFER TO INCREASE THEIR ALLOWANCE BY \$175 TO \$825.

THE UNION IS ASKING FOR \$1,105.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE ANNUAL DELEGATES MEETING DAMANSARA UMNO DIVISION HERE, DR. MAHATHIR SAID IF THE HOUSEMEN WERE TO REFUSE TO DO THEIR INTERNSHIP, THERE WAS NOTHING THE GOVERNMENT COULD DO ABOUT IT.

HOWEVER, THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PRACTICES, AS THE ONE YEAR INTERNSHIP WAS COMPULSORY. -- BERNAMA MORE 1747/ZCM

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STRESSING THAT DOCTORS SHOULD NEVER STRIKE, HE SAID THEY SHOULD BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SICK INSTEAD OF MONEY, ESPECIALLY IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY LIKE MALAYSIA WHICH IS SHORT OF DOCTORS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN SOME COUNTRIES HOUSEMEN HAD TO PAY TO DO THEIR INTERNSHIP AND THEY WERE NOT CONSIDERED AS HAVING COMPLETED THEIR EXAMINATIONS UNTIL THEY HAD FINISHED THEIR HOUSEMANSHIP PERIOD.

THERE WERE ALSO COUNTRIES WHERE THE INTERNSHIP PERIOD WAS THREE YEARS INSTEAD OF ONE AS IN MALAYSIA.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE PERSONALLY FOUND THAT INTERNSHIP WAS MOST USEFUL AS +THERE ARE THINGS WHICH CANNOT BE LEARNT IN SCHOOL.+

HE SAID THAT WHEN HE WAS DOING HIS HOUSEMANSHIP IN 1954, HE WAS PAID ONLY \$400 WHILE DOCTORS RECEIVED \$700.

+THE RATIO BETWEEN ALLOWANCE AND PAY OF THE HOUSEMEN AND DOCTORS NOW IS FAR BETTER,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA 1800/YF