

ASSEMBLY-MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 3 (BERNAMA)--DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD ASSURED TODAY THAT THE NEW SALARY SCHEME FOR THE ARMED FORCES WOULD BE FINALISED +AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.+

HE TOLD THE 28TH UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS WORKING SERIOUSLY ON THE MATTER.

+HOWEVER, WE CANNOT RUSH THINGS AS SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS WILL HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO THE SACRIFICES MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND POLICE IN PREPARING THE SCHEME,+ HE SAID.

DR. MAHATHIR WAS REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED BY DELEGATES DURING THE DEBATE ON THE ACTING PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

ON EDUCATION, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO RECRUIT 40,000 TEACHERS DURING THE NEXT 10 YEARS.

A TOTAL OF 7,000 TEACHERS WERE UNDERGOING TRAINING THIS YEAR. THIS DID NOT INCLUDE TEMPORARY TEACHERS SELECTED FOR FORMAL TRAINING.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THERE WERE AT PRESENT 94,000 TRAINED TEACHERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. --BERNAMA MORE 1838/MD

ASSEMBLY-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE DENIED THAT THE STANDARD OF EDUCATION IN TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGES HAD DROPPED.

DR. MAHATHIR ALSO DENIED THAT UMNO HAD FAILED IN ITS EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE POVERTY AND CLOSE THE ECONOMIC GAP BETWEEN THE HAVES AND THE HAVE-NOTS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE SERIOUS EFFORTS TO RAISE THE ECONOMIC STANDARD OF THE RURAL MALAYS.

POOR STUDENTS FROM THE RURAL AREAS HAD BEEN GIVEN SCHOLARSHIPS TO GO FOR HIGHER STUDIES BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS.

THIS YEAR ALONE, THE EDUCATION MINISTRY, PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND MARA SENT 680 MALAY STUDENTS FOR HIGHER STUDIES. MOST OF THEM WERE FROM POOR FAMILIES.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE MAJORITY OF THE STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITIES WERE FROM POOR FAMILIES. --BERNAMA 1842/MD

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