

PARLIAMENT-EDUCATION
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KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 7 (BERNAMA) -- DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR REITERATED TODAY THAT THE NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY AND REJECTED OPPOSITION ALLEGATIONS THAT IT HAD SPLIT THE UNITY OF THE PEOPLE.

HE ALSO REJECTED THE SUGGESTION THAT THE SYSTEM HAD CAUSED THE MIGRATION OF PROFESSIONALS AND MANY CABINET MINISTERS TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN FOR STUDIES OVERSEAS.

+I HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM WHICH HAS NOT IN ANY WAY BROUGHT DOWN THE STANDARD OF EDUCATION IN THIS COUNTRY+, HE ADDED IN REPLY TO ALLEGATIONS MADE BY ENCİK LIM KIT SIANG (DAP-KOTA MELAKA) AND DR. CHEN MAN HIN (DAP-SEREMBAN) AT THE DEWAN RAKYAT.

THE TWO OPPOSITION MEMBERS EARLIER PROPOSED A MOTION TO CUT THE SALARY OF THE EDUCATION MINISTER BY \$10 AS THEY FELT THAT THE EDUCATION SYSTEM DID NOT REPRESENT THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE MULTI-RACIAL POPULATION IN THE COUNTRY.

THEY PROPOSED THE MOTION DURING THE DEBATE ON THE MINISTRY'S ALLOCATION FOR NEXT YEAR TOTALLING \$2,150.3 MILLION. --BERNAMA MORE
PARLIAMENT-EDUCATION 2 KUALA LUMPUR

IN REJECTING THE MOTION, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR JOKINGLY SAID THAT IF THE OPPOSITION MEMBERS WERE JEALOUS OF THE \$10, HE WAS PREPARED TO DONATE IT TO ANY WELFARE ORGANISATION NAMED BY THE DAP.

BUT THEY COULD NOT CONSIDER THE MOTION AS THEIR PRIVILEGE BECAUSE +I HAVE NEVER DONE ANYTHING TO DESTROY THE UNITY OF THE NATION TO DESERVE SUCH A PAY CUT+.

HE SAID THAT IF THERE WAS ANY FACTOR WHICH HAD SPLIT THE UNITY OF THE PEOPLE THE DAP WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR IT AS THE PARTY WAS FOND OF PLAYING UP COMMUNAL ISSUES.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THE NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE AS MANY NON-MALAY STUDENTS WHO ENTERED THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING LIKE THE UNIVERSITI KERANGSAAN HAD ACHIEVED BETTER RESULTS THAN SOME OF THE BUMIPUTRA STUDENTS. --BERNAMA MORE 1842/7Y

PARLIAMENT-EDUCATION 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE EDUCATION MINISTER, SAID IF MALAYSIA ADOPTED AN OPEN DOOR IMMIGRATION POLICY, IT WOULD BE FLOODED BY FOREIGN DOCTORS WHO WOULD NOT QUESTION THE COUNTRY'S NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM.

INDEED, THEY WOULD PRAISE THE SYSTEM WHICH WAS BETTER THAN THOSE IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

THE MIGRATION OF LOCAL PROFESSIONALS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE EDUCATION SYSTEM. IT WAS BECAUSE OF HIGHER REMUNERATION OVERSEAS.

CABINET MINISTERS AND OTHER RICH PEOPLE SENT THEIR CHILDREN OVERSEAS TO BROADEN THEIR OUTLOOK, HE SAID.

SOME MALAY STUDENTS WERE SENT BY VARIOUS BODIES OVERSEAS BECAUSE LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AT THAT TIME DID NOT PROVIDE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE UP CERTAIN STUDIES LIKE ENGINEERING BECAUSE THEY FELT THAT MALAY STUDENTS LACKED THE QUALIFICATIONS TO BE ENGINEERS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1903/AZ

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PARLIAMENT-EDUCATION 4 KUALA LUMPUR

ON DOUBTS REGARDING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF STUDENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA'S FACULTY OF MEDICINE, HE EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY DID NOT REQUIRE RECOGNITION BY THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL (GMC) FOR DOCTORS SERVING HERE EXCEPT FOR THOSE WISHING TO FURTHER THEIR STUDIES OVERSEAS.

REPLYING TO DR. CHEN'S STATEMENT THAT TENGGU ABDUL RAHMAN SUPPORTED THE PERMANENT USE OF ENGLISH AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION, DR. MAHATHIR JOKINGLY SUGGESTED THAT THEY APPOINT TENGGU AS PARTY LEADER, THIS WOULD MAKE SAYS ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE.

ON THE CRITICISMS THAT UNIVERSITY LECTURERS WERE NOT ALLOWED TO VOICE THEIR OPINIONS, HE SAID THIS RESTRICTION DID NOT MEAN THEY WERE BEING SUPPRESSED. IT WAS TO PREVENT THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS.

HE SAID THE INTELLIGENTSIA WERE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO VOICE THEIR OPINIONS THROUGH WORKING PAPERS PRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS. RESTRICTIONS WERE ONLY TO DISCIPLINE THEM AND NOT TO CONTROL THEIR MOVEMENTS. --BERNAMA MORE 1915/BY

PARLIAMENT-EDUCATION 5 KUALA LUMPUR

EARLIER, WHEN TABLING THE EDUCATION MINISTRY'S ALLOCATION, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID \$50 MILLION WOULD BE SOUGHT FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES NEXT YEAR. THIS WAS \$14 MILLION MORE THAN THE ALLOCATION FOR THIS YEAR.

THE INCREASE WAS NOT ONLY TO CATER FOR STUDENTS WHO WERE NOW RECEIVING SUCH ASSISTANCE IN AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY BUT ALSO TO BEAR THE COST FOR ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NEXT YEAR.

A TOTAL OF \$6.6 MILLION WAS ALSO BEING ASKED TO FINANCE MALAYSIAN STUDENTS' DEPARTMENTS SUCH AS THOSE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, AUSTRALIA, INDONESIA, NEW ZEALAND, INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

IN ADDITION, A TOTAL OF \$1.3 MILLION WAS BEING ASKED TO SETTLE THE COST OF THE BUILDING PURCHASED FOR A MALAYSIAN STUDENTS' CENTRE IN INDONESIA, FOR REPAIR TO THE MALAYSIAN STUDENTS' CENTRE IN LONDON AND THE BUILDING OF A WOMEN'S HOSTEL IN CAIRO, EGYPT. --BERNAMA MORE 1916/BY

PARLIAMENT-EDUCATION 6 KUALA LUMPUR

THE LARGEST ALLOCATION IS FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION WHICH DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR DESCRIBED AS "THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITY OF THE EDUCATION MINISTRY".

THE AMOUNT REQUESTED IS \$1,537.6 MILLION -- \$1,283.8 MILLION FOR OPERATING COST WHILE \$243.8 FOR DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAID, FIVE DIVISIONS WOULD BE INVOLVED IN SUPERVISING THE RUNNING OF 7,456 SCHOOLS NEXT YEAR AND ASSESSING THEIR PROGRESS AS WELL AS THE EFFICIENCY OF THEIR TEACHERS AND THE SUITABILITY OF THEIR CURRICULUM.

OUT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOOLS, 6,421 WERE PRIMARY, 978 SECONDARY, NINE FULLY-RESIDENTIAL, 10 SECONDARY SCIENCE SCHOOLS, 10 TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND 28 VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS. --BERNAMA MORE 1920

PARLIAMENT-EDUCATION 7 KUALA LUMPUR

FOR UPPER SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION, THE AMOUNT REQUESTED IS \$406 MILLION - - \$251.8 MILLION FOR OPERATING FIVE UNIVERSITIES AND THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL TOGETHER WITH TWO POLYTECHNICS AND THE MARA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.

A SUM OF \$144.2 MILLION IS FOR DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES.

THE AMOUNT FOR OPERATING EXPENSES TOTALLING \$41.1 MILLION WAS AN INCREASE OF 37.69 PER CENT OVER THE FIGURES FOR THIS YEAR.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID PART OF THE ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION WAS NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW CABINET COMMITTEE SALARIES SCHEME AND ALSO TO MEET THE RISING COSTS OF MATERIALS THAT WERE BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE MINISTRY. --BERNAMA MORE 1921/BY

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PARLIAMENT-EDUCATION 8 KUALA LUMPUR

THE ALLOCATION FOR TEACHER TRAINING IS \$98.9 MILLION.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE SYSTEM OF INTEGRATED TRAINING WOULD BE STRENGTHENED AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WOULD BE MADE A COMPULSORY SUBJECT IN ALL TEACHER COLLEGES.

LECTURERS ON ISLAMIC RELIGION WOULD BE APPOINTED NEXT YEAR.

A TOTAL OF \$2 MILLION HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FOR THE DEWAN BAHASA DAN PUSTAKA'S PRINTING PROJECT. --BERNAMA MORE 1923/BY

PARLIAMENT-EDUCATION 9 KUALA LUMPUR

DURING THE DEBATE, DR. TAN CHEE KHOON (PEKEMAS-KEPONG), REGRETTED THAT THE QUALITY OF THE MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF

THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA HAD DETERIORATED.

IF THE GOVERNMENT FAILED TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO REMEDY THIS, RECOGNITION OF THE CERTIFICATE MIGHT BE WITHDRAWN BY THE GMC.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GMC RECOGNITION WAS VITAL FOR DOCTORS WHO WISHED TO CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

DR. TAN ALSO SPOKE ON THE LACK OF SKILLED STAFF AT THE UNIVERSITY'S FACULTY OF MEDICINE.

TENGGU NOOR ASIAH (BN-TUMPAT) WANTED THE GOVERNMENT TO SEND MORE TEACHERS QUALIFIED IN ENGLISH TO KELANTAN.

SHE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT RELIGIOUS STUDIES BE GIVEN A MORE IMPORTANT PLACE TO INSTIL MORAL DISCIPLINE AMONG STUDENTS. --BERNAMA MORE 1926/BY

PARLIAMENT-EDUCATION 10 KUALA LUMPUR

HAJI HADADAH DAING FASAUK (BN-SIMUNJAN) SAID OLD SCHOOLS IN THE RURAL AREAS SHOULD BE RENOVATED.

HE ALSO WANTED THE MINISTRY TO SET UP VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS IN SARAWAK.

HE URGED THAT QUARTERS BE PROVIDED FOR TEACHERS SERVING IN THE RURAL AREAS TO ENABLE THEM TO CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES PROPERLY.

PUAN ROSEMARY CHONG (BN-SELAYANG) WANTED THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE BETTER FACILITIES IN SCHOOLS IN NEW VILLAGES AND ALSO TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CLASS-ROOMS TO CATER FOR AN INCREASING STUDENT ENROLMENT.

DR. CHEN MAN HIN (DAP-SEREMBAN) SAID THE EDUCATION SYSTEM DID NOT REFLECT THE ASPIRATIONS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS. IT WAS THEIR DISILLUSIONMENT WITH THE POLICY THAT CAUSED THE INTELLIGENTSIA TO EMIGRATE OVERSEAS.

EVEN THE MINISTERS SENT THEIR CHILDREN FOR PRIMARY EDUCATION OVERSEAS. HE ADDED. --BERNAMA MORE 1930/BY

PARLIAMENT-EDUCATION 11 KUALA LUMPUR

HE ALSO WANTED THE CABINET COMMITTEE REPORT ON EDUCATION TO BE TABLED IN PARLIAMENT FOR DEBATE.

ENCIK LIM KIT SIANG (DAP-KOTA MELAKA) SUGGESTED THE SETTING UP OF A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY TO ACCEPT THE INCREASE IN APPLICATIONS.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT A ROYAL COMMISSION ON EDUCATION BE SET UP TO STUDY THE MEMORANDUM SENT TO THE CABINET COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

ENCIK LATIP HAJI DRIS (BN-MUKAH) WANTED PUBLIC ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS BE TURNED INTO FULLY-AIDED GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

HE ALSO WANTED AN INCREASE IN THE VALUE OF BURSARIES FOR SARAWAK STUDENTS TO FURTHER THEIR STUDIES IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA.

THE MEMBER SUGGESTED THAT A SPECIAL ALLOCATION BE MADE TO SET UP KINDERGARTENS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ESPECIALLY IN THE RURAL AREAS.

ENCIK SHAARI JUSOH (BN-KANGAR) SUGGESTED THAT THE TIME FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES IN SCHOOLS BE LENGTHENED AND INCREASED WITH PRACTICAL LESSONS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1939/LK

PARLIAMENT-EDUCATION 12 KUALA LUMPUR

HE ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO SET UP A TEACHERS TRAINING CENTRE IN PERLIS.

ENCIK MOHAMED SOPIEE SHEIKH IBRAHIM (BN-KEPALA DATAS) HOPED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD REVIEW ITS PLAN TO ESTABLISH ORDERS TO PREVENT THE ACADEMIC STAFF OF INSTITUTES OF HIGHER LEARNING FROM PARTICIPATING IN POLITICS.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT MORE POLYTECHNICS AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES BE SET UP.

THE BARISAN NASIONAL MEMBER FOR HILIR PADAS, HAJI MOHAMED TAUFEEK, URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO HOLD ADDITIONAL COURSES IN BAHASA MALAYSIA FOR TEACHERS TEACHING THE LANGUAGE IN SABAH.

HE WILL CONTINUE HIS SPEECH TOMORROW. - BERNAMA 1943/LK