

MAHATHIR-DOCTORS

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KOTA KINABALU, JAN. 24 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE TO SET UP A MEDICAL FACULTY AT UNIVERSITI SAINS IN PENANG TO PRODUCE MORE DOCTORS FOR THE COUNTRY'S NEEDS.

THE PROBLEM IN ESTABLISHING ANOTHER MEDICAL SCHOOL WAS NOT MONEY BUT GETTING THE TEACHING PERSONNEL, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT A DIALOGUE SESSION WITH HEADS OF FEDERAL AND STATE DEPARTMENTS IN SABAH AT THE COUNTRY AND GOLF CLUB HERE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR EXPRESSED SURPRISE WHEN TOLD THAT ONLY 50 PER CENT OF THE VACANCIES FOR DOCTORS AND SPECIALISTS IN SABAH HAD SO FAR BEEN FILLED.

HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH HEALTH MINISTER TAN SRI CHONG HON NYAN THE QUESTION OF POSTING MORE DOCTORS AND SPECIALISTS FROM PENINSULAR MALAYSIA TO SERVE IN SABAH IN VIEW OF THE STATE'S URGENT NEEDS.

THERE ARE AT PRESENT 59 GOVERNMENT DOCTORS SERVING IN THE STATE. —BERNAMA MORE 1645/BY

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CHIEF MINISTER DATUK HARRIS SALLEH TOLD DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR THAT THE STATE ALSO NEEDED ABOUT 300 GRADUATE TEACHERS AND BETWEEN 1,000 AND 2,000 TRAINED TEACHERS TO CATCH UP WITH PROGRESS IN THE EDUCATION FIELD.

ACCORDING TO DATUK HARRIS, SABAH WAS 20 YEARS BEHIND PENINSULAR MALAYSIA AND 10 YEARS BEHIND SARAWAK IN EDUCATION.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR TOLD THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS THAT CIVIL SERVANTS IN MALAYSIA WERE AMONG THE BEST PAID IN THIS REGION.

HE CALLED ON GOVERNMENT OFFICERS NOT ONLY TO THINK IN TERMS OF SALARY INCREASES BUT TO HAVE PRIDE IN THEIR ABILITY TO SERVE THE COUNTRY AND PEOPLE. —BERNAMA 1648/BY