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KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 6 (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY NEEDED THE COMMAND OF A SECOND LANGUAGE TO INCREASE THEIR KNOWLEDGE IN THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF LIFE.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THIS HOWEVER DID NOT MEAN ONLY ENGLISH BUT ALSO OTHER LANGUAGES SUCH AS JAPANESE OR FRENCH.

HE WAS OPENING A TWO-DAY SEMINAR ON POLITICAL STRUNGGLLE AND NATIONAL CULTURE ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE PENINSULAR MALAYSIA MALAY TEACHERS UNION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF MALAY STUDIES IN THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT AS SUCH, APART FROM THE FIRST LANGUAGE—BAHASA MALAYSIA, — THE GOVERNMENT WANTED STUDENTS TO MASTER ENGLISH AS THE SECOND LANGUAGE.

+HOWEVER, IF WE DO NOT WISH TO LEARN ENGLISH, WE CAN LEARN SOME OTHER MODERN LANGUAGE+, HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT MALAY LANGUAGE TEACHERS HAD PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN DEVELOPING THE MALAY LANGUAGE TO WHAT IT WAS TODAY.

THESE TEACHERS HAD ALSO LED IN THE STRUNGGLLE FOR INDEPENDENCE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ADDED. —BERNAMA 1314/BY