

MAHATHIR - STUDENTS

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ALOR STAR, SEPT. 22 (BERNAMA) — DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED) TODAY HIT OUT AT A GROUP OF MALAY STUDENTS OVERSEAS WHO OPPOSE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

HE SAID THEY CLAIMED THAT THE POLICY WAS NOT FAIR TO THE OTHER COMMUNITIES, PARTICULARLY THE CHINESE AND INDIANS.

THEY WERE TOTALLY AGAINST THE POLICY WHICH AMONG OTHERS WAS AIMED AT RAISING THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE HAVE-NOTS. INCLUDING THE MALAYS, HE ADDED AT A MEETING WITH RESIDENTS OF CHANGLON AT THE CHANGLON NATIONAL SCHOOL, 25 MILES FROM HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THIS GROUP OF STUDENTS APPARENTLY FAILED TO REALISE THAT THE SCHOLARSHIPS TO ENABLE THEM TO FURTHER THEIR STUDIES OVERSEAS WERE GIVEN UNDER THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGED MALAY STUDENTS TO GO FOR FURTHER STUDIES IN LOCAL AND FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES, ESPECIALLY IN COURSES LIKE LAW, MEDICINE AND ENGINEERING. —BERNAMA MORE 2148/MD

MAHATHIR - STUDENTS 2 ALOR STAR

STUDENTS WHOSE PARENTS WERE TOO POOR TO AFFORD THEIR EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES WERE GIVEN SCHOLARSHIPS TO ENABLE THEM TO FULFIL THEIR ACADEMIC AMBITIONS.

SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS OVERSEAS WERE GIVEN ALLOWANCES BIGGER THAN THE SALARIES OF NEWLY-RECRUITED GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

ACCORDING TO HIM, THEY RECEIVED BETWEEN \$400 AND \$500 A MONTH EACH EXCLUDING CLOTHING ALLOWANCE, UNIVERSITY FEES AND RETURN AIR FARES.

THE GOVERNMENT AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS TO THEM BECAUSE IT FELT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THEM TO GET HIGHER EDUCATION.

HOWEVER, AFTER LEAVING THE COUNTRY, SOME OF THESE STUDENTS +FORGOT+ THE BENEFITS GIVEN TO THEM BY THE GOVERNMENT AND STARTED TO CRITICISE THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

THEY SHOULD WAKE UP TO THE FACT THAT THE SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER BENEFITS THAT THEY WERE ENJOYING WERE BY COUNTESY OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY. —BERNAMA MORE 2152/MD

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MAHATHIR - STUDENTS 3 ALOR STAR

HE SAID THAT IF THEY WERE REALLY SINCERE IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY, THEY SHOULD RETURN TO MALAYSIA AND RELINQUISH THEIR SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS OF THE OTHER COMMUNITIES.

BUT UNFORTUNATELY THESE STUDENTS WERE NOT READY TO DO THIS. THEY WANT ONLY TO OPPOSE THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY BUT DID NOT WANT TO GIVE UP THE BENEFITS THEY WERE ENJOYING UNDER THE POLICY, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT AFTER BEING IN THE UNIVERSITY FOR ONLY A FEW DAYS, THESE STUDENTS WERE ALREADY ACTING LIKE GREAT INTELLECTUALS AND CENSURING ALL GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE PARENTS OF THESE STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING WITH THEIR CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY AS THE STUDENTS HAD SAID THAT THEIR PARENTS WERE UNEDUCATED AND NEEDED TO BE TAUGHT AND THAT THIS WAS COMMANDED BY ISLAM.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THESE WERE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE GOVERNMENT AND STRESSED THAT IF STEPS WERE NOT TAKEN TO OVERCOME THEM, THE COUNTRY WOULD FACE CHAOS. —BERNAMA 2156/MD

81