

MAHATHIR

80 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 9 (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY LASHED OUT AT BRITISH INSTITUTIONS AND PROFESSIONALS WHO HE SAID CONSIDERED THEMSELVES NOT ONLY THE AUTHORITY ON ACADEMIC STANDARD BUT ALSO THE ARBITER OF POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID: +WITHOUT KNOWING ANYTHING ABOUT THE SITUATION PREVAILING IN A COUNTRY THEY HINTED DARKLY THAT THEY WOULD NOT RECOGNISE QUALIFICATIONS UNLESS THE POLITICS OF A COUNTRY CONFORM TO THEIR PERSONAL WISHES.

+THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ASKED TO RECOGNISE THESE QUALIFICATIONS SEEMED TO HAVE ESCAPED THEIR NOTICE.

+THEY PRESUME THAT THEIR FORMER COLONIAL SUBJECTS AND THE INSTITUTIONS THEY RUN WOULD BE ASKING FOR RECOGNITION AND FOR THAT THEY SHOULD BEHAVE THEMSELVES+.

HE SAID THIS WHEN HE OPENED THE ONE-DAY 5TH SOUTHEAST REGIONAL MEETING OF THE COMMONWEALTH ENGINEERS COUNCIL HERE. THE MEETING WAS SPONSORED BY THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS MALAYSIA. —BERNAMA MORE 1330/BY

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TRACING THE COLONIAL HISTORY OF THE NATION, HE SAID MALAYSIA BEFORE INDEPENDENCE WAS SUBJECT TO MUCH RESTRICTION IN THE FIELD OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION.

+VERY FEW LOCALS WERE TRAINED AS ENGINEERS BECAUSE THE BRITISH COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION WANTED LUCRATIVE POSTS AND STATUS AS GOVERNMENT ENGINEERS RESERVED FOR THEIR OWN KIND+, HE ADDED.

AS WITH THE MEDICAL PROFESSION, ON THE BASIS OF BEING ASIATIC, FULLY QUALIFIED MALAYSIAN ENGINEERS WERE APPOINTED TO INFERIOR POSTS COMPARED WITH BRITISH ENGINEERS OF +DOUBTFUL QUALIFICATION+, HE SAID.

+THE MONOPOLY OF THE BRITISH WAS MAINTAINED BY MAKING ONLY BRITISH QUALIFICATIONS RECOGNISED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRACTISING+, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID. 199

+THIS CREATED THE IMPRESSION THAT BRITISH STANDARDS WERE SUPERIOR AND THAT THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES WERE UNACCEPTABLE.

+SUCH WAS THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT OF THIS COLONIAL STRATEGY THAT THE BRITISH INSTITUTIONS THEMSELVES TO THIS DAY BELIEVED IN THEIR SUPERIORITY AND THAT NO ONE COULD REALLY CONSIDER HIMSELF PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED UNTIL THE BRITISH INSTITUTIONS DECIDE TO RECOGNISE THE QUALIFICATIONS+. --BERNAMA MORE 1333/BY

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT OF LATE THERE WAS A TENDENCY AMONG BRITISH INSTITUTIONS AND PROFESSIONALS NOT ONLY TO LOOK AT ACADEMIC STANDARDS BUT ALSO TO CONSIDER THEMSELVES THE ARBITER OF POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR.

IN ADDITION, BRITISH PROFESSIONALS WHO ADOPTED THIS+HIGH AND MIGHTY ATTITUDE+ WERE QUITE UNABLE TO SEE THEIR OWN RACIALISM IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY, HE ADDED.

+THE RECENT RESTRICTION OF FOREIGN STUDENTS IN BRITAIN IS TYPICAL OF AN INHERENT RACIALIST BIAS AGAINST NON-EUROPEANS.

+KNOWING THAT MALAYSIANS AND OTHER ASIANS, DUE TO AN ACCIDENT OF HISTORY, ARE FORCED TO GO TO BRITAIN FOR EDUCATION, A DELIBERATE POLICY OF KEEPING THEM OUT IS APPLIED. ON THE OTHER HAND EUROPEANS ARE EXAMPTED+.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA DID NOT QUESTION THE RIGHT OF ANY GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE ON ANY POLICY BUT THE BRITISH PROFESSIONALS SHOULD RECOGNISE THE RACIALISM IN THEMSELVES BEFORE THEY SO RIGHTEOUSLY CONDEMNED RACIALISM IN OTHERS. --BERNAMA MORE 1336/BY

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+AND ABOVE ALL DO NOT MAKE DISPARAGING REMARKS ABOUT STANDARDS AND INDIVIDUALS MERELY BECAUSE YOU DO NOT LIKE THE POLITICS+.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT WISH TO INFLUENCE THE LOCAL ENGINEERS AS TO THE COMPANY THEY SHOULD KEEP, STRESSING THAT MALAYSIA WAS NOW AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY.

+WE DO NOT NEED GRATUITOUS ADVICE, ESPECIALLY FROM THOSE WHO CREATED OUR PRESENT PROBLEM FOR US BY SEGREGATING RACES AND DENYING EDUCATION+.

POINTING OUT THAT THE COUNTRY WAS NOW FAST DEVELOPING, HE SAID THE ANSWER TO THE SHORTAGE OF ENGINEERS WAS TO STRETCH THE CAPACITY OF ENGINEERS TO THE VERY LIMIT IN THE COUNTRY-- AN AREA WHICH THE ENGINEERS HAVE TO WORK OUT THEMSELVES.

IN FACT, UNDER THE SECOND AND THIRD MALAYSIA PLANS AND THEIR ALLOCATIONS, THE AVERAGE ENGINEER HAD TO HANDLE FOUR TIMES MORE FUNDS AND WORK THAN HE USED TO, HE ADDED.

HE ALSO ADVISED THE LOCAL ENGINEERS TO BE INNOVATIVE AND INVENTIVE INSTEAD OF JUST ADAPTING THE INVENTIONS OF THEIR COUNTERPARTS FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO LOCAL CONDITIONS. --BERNAMA 1340/BY