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MAHATHIR-LANGUAGE
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 26³¹ (BERNAMA) ^①—PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, TONIGHT REITERATED CONFIDENCE IN THE CAPABILITY OF BAHASA MALAYSIA TO SERVE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION AND DAILY COMMUNICATION IN THE VARIOUS FIELDS.

HE SAID SOME GROUPS HAD QUESTIONED THE CAPABILITIES OF THE LANGUAGE FOR USAGE AT UNIVERSITY-LEVEL WHEN THE IDEA WAS MOOTED IN THE PAST.

BUT NOW SUCH DOUBTS HAD BEEN DISPELLED FOLLOWING THE USE OF THE LANGUAGE IN MEDICAL COURSES AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL, HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE THIRD GENERAL MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA (UKM) GRADUATES ASSOCIATION HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS HAPPY WITH THE INCREASING USE OF BAHASA MALAYSIA COMPARED WITH THE SITUATION IN THE PAST, PARTICULARLY DURING THE COLONIAL TIMES, WHEN THE MALAY LANGUAGE WAS REGARDED AS +NOT SUITABLE+ FOR POPULAS USAGE. —BERNAMA
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HE CONCEDED THE FACT THAT BAHASA MALAYSIA HAD ASSIMILATED WORDS FROM OTHER LANGUAGES BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE SAME WAS ALSO TRUE FOR OTHER LANGUAGES.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO DISGRACE IN ADOPTING WORDS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES INTO BAHASA MALAYSIA BECAUSE THIS WOULD ONLY HELP ENRICH THE LANGUAGE MORE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO COMMENTED ON SOME UNDERGRADUATES WHO HAD ALREADY SELECTED THE JOBS THEY WANTED EVEN BEFORE PASSING OUT FROM UNIVERSITY.

THERE WERE ALSO THOSE AMONG THEM WHO WERE CONCEREND ONLY WITH GETTING A HIGH SALARY, GOOD CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND ALSO WITH WHETHER THEY COULD ESCAPE FROM HONOURING THEIR SCHOLARSHIP OBLIGATIONS AFTER GRADUATING.

HE URGED THE ASSOCIATION TO INCULCATE PROPER SENSE OF VALUES AMONG UNDERGRADUATES, SAYING THAT NOTHING COULD DESTROY SOCIETY MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN HAVING THE WRONG VALUES. —BERNAMA
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