

PARLIAMENT - MAHATHIR 2'2'2'2'
BM.

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 9⁸² (BERNAMA) — (P) DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT, IN IMPLEMENTING THE NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM (3R SYSTEM), WILL SEE TO IT THAT THE FUTURE OF SCHOOLCHILDREN IS NOT DESTROYED ON ACCOUNT OF THE POLITICAL INTERESTS OF ANY GROUP.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE 3R SYSTEM SHOULD NOT BE MADE AN ISSUE TO DISRUPT THE HARMONY BEING NURTURED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

HE REGRETTED THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN GROUPS WHICH PURPOSELY MISINTERPRETED GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION IN INTRODUCING THE SYSTEM BY LINKING IT TO A CLAUSE UNDER THE EDUCATION ACT EMPOWERING THE GOVERNMENT TO TURN NATIONAL TYPE SCHOOLS INTO NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S RECORD FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS SHOWED THAT IT HAD NEVER HAD ANY INTENTION TO MISUSE THIS CLAUSE.

HE SAID THIS IN ANSWER TO 36 QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THE 3R SYSTEM ASKED BY MP'S, INCLUDING ENCIK LIM CHO HOCK (DAP-IPOH), IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT. — BERNAMA MORE 1706/MK

NO80 (F)
PARLIAMENT - MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WAS A GOVERNMENT COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL RACES IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT A GOVERNMENT COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF ONLY ONE RACE COULD ASSUME POWER IN MALAYSIA UNLESS THE COOPERATION EXISTING AMONG THE VARIOUS RACES AT PRESENT WAS TERMINATED.

HE ADMITTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANTICIPATED PROBLEMS IN IMPLEMENTING THE 3R SYSTEM AND IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS AWARENESS THAT IT HAD DECIDED ON EXPERIMENTING IT IN 302 SCHOOLS FIRST.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD IDENTIFIED THE PROBLEMS AND THE PRIME MINISTER WAS CONFIDENT THAT THEY COULD BE OVERCOME BEFORE THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CURRICULUM NEXT YEAR.

AMONG THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED WERE THOSE PERTAINING TO THE CAPABILITY OF TEACHERS, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MATERIALS USED AND CONGESTION IN CLASSROOMS. — BERNAMA MORE 1710/MK

NO88 (F)
PARLIAMENT - MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

SEVERAL MEMBERS HAD QUESTIONED THE PREPAREDNESS OF THE EDUCATION MINISTRY TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE 3R SYSTEM NEXT YEAR.

THE PRIME MINISTER REPLIED THAT A COMMITTEE HAD BEEN SET UP TO MONITOR THE TRIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CURRICULUM THIS YEAR AND PLAN FOR ITS FULL ENFORCEMENT NEXT YEAR.

THE FINDINGS OF THOSE OFFICERS, BOTH AT MINISTRY AND STATE LEVELS, MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CURRICULUM, HAD AND WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR REPLIED TO THOSE MP'S WHO HAD ASKED WHETHER THE 3R SYSTEM WOULD CHANGE THE CHARACTERISTIC OR FEATURE OF NATIONAL TYPE CHINESE AND TAMIL PRIMARY SCHOOLS. — BERNAMA MORE 1746/MK

N090 (F)
PARLIAMENT - MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW, THE REPORT OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE WHICH RECOMMENDED THE 3R SYSTEM PROVIDED FOR THE EXISTING PRIMARY SCHOOL SYSTEM, UNDER WHICH THREE MEDIUMS OF INSTRUCTION ARE USED, TO CONTINUE.

THIS MEANT THAT NATIONAL SCHOOLS WOULD USE BAHASA MALAYSIA AS ITS MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION, NATIONAL TYPE CHINESE SCHOOLS CHINESE AND NATIONAL TYPE TAMIL SCHOOLS TAMIL.

THESE SCHOOLS WOULD NOT ONLY CONTINUE TO EXIST BUT ALSO HAVE THE TIME ALLOTTED FOR THE STUDY OF THE LANGUAGES USED AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION INCREASED UNDER THE 3R SYSTEM.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 3R SYSTEM WAS A CURRICULUM CHANGE WHICH HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: +THERE IS NO INTENTION NOR ANY ACTION TO ABOLISH ANYBODY'S LANGUAGE.+ -- BERNAMA MORE 1750/MK

N113 (F)
PARLIAMENT - MAHATHIR 5 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THAT IN THE INITIAL STAGE, ALLEGATIONS AND ACCUSATIONS WERE PERHAPS MADE BECAUSE OF LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE CURRICULUM BY CERTAIN QUARTERS.

NOW, COMPREHENSIVE EXPLANATION ON THE SYSTEM HAD BEEN GIVEN TO ALL.

THE CABINET COMMITTEE REPORT WHICH RECOMMENDED THE 3R SYSTEM HAD IN FACT BEEN CIRCULATED AT THE END OF 1979.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE INCLUDED ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMPONENTS PARTIES OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL AND THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID GENERALLY THE MATERIALS PROVIDED BY THE EDUCATION MINISTRY FOR THE 3R SYSTEM WOULD BE READY IN THE YEAR PRIOR TO THE YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION. -- BERNAMA MORE 1850/MK

N114 (F)
PARLIAMENT - MAHATHIR 6 KUALA LUMPUR

MATERIALS FOR TEACHERS SUCH AS SYLLABUS, GUIDEBOOKS AND RESOURCE BOOKS WERE PREPARED IN BAHASA MALAYSIA.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS WAS A COMMON PRACTICE FOR ALL SCHOOLS AND NO ONE HAD EVER OPPOSED OR REGARDED IT AS TANTAMOUNT TO CHANGING THE CHARACTER OF NATIONAL TYPE CHINESE AND TAMIL SCHOOLS.

HE SAID THAT A SURVEY OF SCHOOLS CARRIED OUT IN JANUARY AND LAST MONTH SHOWED THAT TEACHERS IN ALL TYPES OF SCHOOLS WERE ABLE TO USE THE MATERIALS PREPARED IN BAHASA MALAYSIA.

THERE WERE SOME TEACHERS WHO WERE NOT FLUENT IN BAHASA MALAYSIA AS THEY HAD RECEIVED TRAINING IN CHINESE OR TAMIL. STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TO HELP THESE TEACHERS.

THE EDUCATION MINISTRY ALSO DOES NOT PREVENT ANY EFFORT TO HAVE THE MATERIALS TRANSLATED INTO CHINESE OR TAMIL. -- BERNAMA MORE 1855/MK

N115 (F)
PARLIAMENT - MAHATHIR 7 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MOST OF THE READING MATERIALS REQUIRED UNDER THE 3R SYSTEM WERE PRODUCED BY PRIVATE PUBLISHERS AND 108 OF THESE PUBLISHERS HAD ALREADY BEEN BRIEFED ON THE SYSTEM.

THEY HAD STATED THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO PRODUCE THE MATERIALS IN ALL LANGUAGES.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS GIVEN A ROUND OF APPLAUSE BY THE GOVERNMENT MEMBERS WHEN HE FINISHED GIVING HIS REPLIES.

TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM ENCIK IKHWAN NASIR (BN-PONTIAN), HE SAID THE 3R SYSTEM WAS NOT A POLITICAL ISSUE BUT IT HAD BEEN TURNED INTO ONE BY THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAD RUN OUT OF CAPITAL.

TO ENCIK LEE LAM THYE (DAP-KUALA LUMPUR BANDAR), DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO HAVE A REFERENDUM ON THE 3R SYSTEM. -- BERNAMA MORE 1859/MK

N116 (F)
PARLIAMENT - MAHATHIR 8 KUALA LUMPUR

IN REPLY TO ENCIK LIM KIT SIANG (DAP-PETALING), HE GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER ALL CRITICISMS AND COMMENTS ON THE NEW CURRICULUM WITH A VIEW TO OVERCOMING ITS WEAKNESSES.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT THE NEW CURRICULUM HAD LESSENED THE EMPHASIS ON THE LEARNING OF THE JAWI SCRIPT.

HE WAS REPLYING TO ENCIK NAKHAIE HAJI AHMAD (PAS-BALING). -- BERNAMA 1900/MK