

MAHATHIR-SCIENCE  
BM

82  
KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 6. (BERNAMA) DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD  
TODAY OUTLINED THE NATIONAL SCIENCE POLICY WHICH IS AIMED AT  
EXPOSING THE PEOPLE TO SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND ITS ROLE IN LIFE.

+WE DO NOT WANT THE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY TO BE AWED BY THE  
CAPABILITY OF OTHERS JUST BECAUSE THEY FAIL TO UNDERSTAND HOW  
OTHER PEOPLE COULD USE SCIENCE TO DO THIS AND THAT,+ HE SAID.

+NOTHING COULD BE MORE DISHEARTENING THAN THE LACK OF KNOWLEDGE.  
WE DO NOT WANT MALAYSIANS TO BE DISPIRITED TO THE EXTENT OF BEING  
SUBSERVIENT,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHEN OPENING THE 1982  
SCIENCE EXHIBITION AND THE LAUNCHING OF THE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUND.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO INTRODUCE SCIENCE IN A  
FORM THAT COULD BE EASILY UNDERSTOOD BY EVERYONE.

HE ADDED THAT A JAPANESE FIRM, MATSUSHITA, HAD AGREED TO HOLD  
AN EXHIBITION OF ELECTRONIC MODELS AND TO EXPLAIN TO THE PEOPLE  
THE BASICS OF HUMAN INVENTIONS.--BERNAMA MORE 1830/HM

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THE ELECTRONIC MODELS WHICH WOULD BE EXHIBITED AT THE UNIVERSITI  
TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA HERE, WOULD BE REPLACED WHEN NEW ONES WERE  
INVENTED, HE SAID.

THROUGH SUCH EXHIBITION, THE PRIME MINISTER HOPED THAT SCIENCE  
WOULD NO LONGER BECOME A MYSTERY TO THE PEOPLE.

IN ADDITION, INSTITUTIONS WHICH EMPHASISED ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY  
AND RESEARCH WOULD EXPOSE THE SUBJECT ON A BROADER SCALE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID, ALTHOUGH TELEVISION MALAYSIA HAD  
SHOWN FILMS ON SCIENCE THEY WERE THOSE MADE OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY  
AND THIS HAD CAUSED A FEELING OF MYSTERY TO THE PEOPLE.

HE HAS DIRECTED THAT PROGRAMMES BASED ON LOCAL EXPERIENCES  
AND EXAMPLES BE INTRODUCED.

FOR EXAMPLE,-HE SAID, TO INTRODUCE A PROGRAMME ON PLANT  
CULTIVATION IT SHOULD BE SHOWN HOW SEEDS GERMINATE INTO A FRUIT-  
GROWING PLANT, THE ROLES OF INSECTS IN PLANT GROWING OR BREEDING  
OF FISH THROUGH SCIENTIFIC METHODS.--BERNAMA MORE 1837/HM

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+IT IS ALL RIGHT IF FOREIGN EXPERTS WERE EMPLOYED INITIALLY  
TO PRODUCE SUCH FILMS UNTIL SUCH TIME WHEN WE OURSELVES ARE COMPETENT  
TO PRODUCE THEM,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED THAT LIBRARIES SHOULD ALSO BE EQUIPPED  
WITH ILLUSTRATED SCIENCE BOOKS THAT EXPLAINED EASILY THE SCIENTIFIC  
PROCESSES INVOLVED.

HE SAID ATTENTION SHOULD NOT BE FOCUSED ONLY ON SCHOOL CHILDREN  
BUT ALSO ADULTS, PARTICULARLY FARMERS WHO NEEDED TO UNDERSTAND  
THE LIVING PROCESS OF PLANTS OR CULTIVATIONS WHICH FORMED THEIR  
SOURCE OF INCOME.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID SCIENCE AS A FORM OF KNOWLEDGE SHOULD NOT ONLY BE CONFINED TO SCIENTISTS BUT SHOULD BE OPEN TO ALL.

+THUS IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE PEOPLE TO KNOW WHAT IS SCIENCE AND ITS ROLE IN THEIR LIFE,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND RESEARCH, LAUNCHED TODAY, WOULD HELP TO COORDINATE THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE POLICY IN LINE WITH NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS.--BERNAMA MORE 1902/HM  
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+THERE SHOULD BE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES AND THE PURE AND SOCIAL SCIENCES,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

HE SAID STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND RESEARCH PRODUCED THE OPTIMUM RESULTS AS MALAYSIA WITH ITS LIMITED FINANCIAL CAPABILITY COULD NOT EFFORT EASTAGE AND DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO DIRECTED RESEARCH INSTITUTES, INCLUDING THE HIGHER INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING, TO GIVE PRIORITY TO UPGRADING THE QUALITY OF THEIR RESEARCH AND RESEARCHERS.--  
-BERNAMA MORE 1907/HM

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THE PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED THE LAUNCHING OF THE FUND AS A SIGNIFICANT MOMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAID IT WAS NOT BECAUSE SCIENCE HAD SOLELY CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY OR PLACE IT AMONG THE DEVELOPED NATIONS BUT BECAUSE IT WAS MORE SO A KNOWLEDGE THAT OPENED ALL GOD'S CREATIONS TO MAN.

ONLY THE ARROGANT WOULD TREAT SCIENCE AS A FORM OF KNOWLEDGE THAT WAS TOTALLY UNRELATED TO GOD.

"I EMPHASIZE THIS FACT LEST WE LOSE OUR BEARING," HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGED THE LEARNING OF SCIENCE AND THE CONDUCT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AS IT WANTED TO USE SCIENCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE AND AS A PROTECTION AGAINST EXPLOITATION BY OTHERS.

"IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR US TO DISCARD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MERELY BECAUSE WE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND THEM," HE SAID. -- BERNAMA  
1930/MB