

PM - OPPORTUNITY

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ALUR SETAR, DEC. 16 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS REMINDED THE PEOPLE TO USE THEIR OWN INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE THEIR LOT AND NOT DEPEND ON THE GOVERNMENT FOR EVERYTHING.

+OPPORTUNITIES IN VARIOUS FIELDS SUCH AS EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT HAD BEEN MADE INCREASINGLY AVAILABLE SINCE MERDEKA AND THE SUCCESSIVE ELECTIONS OF GOVERNMENTS,+ HE ADDED.

+THESE OPPORTUNITIES SHOULD BE CHERISHED AND THOSE BENEFITTING FROM THEM SHOULD BE THANKFUL FOR IT BECAUSE GOOD FORTUNE COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE OBTAINED WITHOUT GREAT ENDEAVOUR.+

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS SPEAKING AT A DINNER ORGANISED BY THE KOTA SETAR BARISAN NASIONAL IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE.

THE DINNER WAS HELD AT THE SIMPANG EMPAT SECONDARY SCHOOL NEAR HERE LAST NIGHT ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 3,000 PEOPLE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, IN NOTING WIDER OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION BOTH LOCALLY AND ABROAD, SAID THERE WERE ELEMENTS URGING STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITIES TO DROP THEIR STUDIES. -- MORE 1114/MK

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+THESE ELEMENTS USED THE ARGUMENT THAT EDUCATION WOULD TURN THE STUDENTS INTO ROBOTS AND SLAVES,+ HE SAID.

+HOWEVER MANY OF THESE ELEMENTS HAD BEEN DRIVEN OUT FROM THE UNIVERSITIES.+

HE SAID STUDENTS SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THEY WERE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO STUDY AND SHOULD MAKE GOOD USE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY BECAUSE EDUCATION WAS A PRICELESS INVESTMENT.

THEY SHOULD BE WILLING TO UNDERTAKE TRAINING IN ANY FIELD TO ACQUIRE EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF EVERYONE.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THE PEOPLE NEEDED TO CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE SITUATION AROUND THEM AND BE WILLING TO LEARN FROM THOSE WHO KNOW MORE THAN THEM.

HE OBSERVED THAT THERE WERE MALAYS WHO WERE ENVIOUS OF THE SUCCESS OF THE OTHER COMMUNITIES AND SAID THESE PEOPLE HAD ONLY THEMSELVES TO BLAME FOR NOT WORKING HARD AND NOT GIVING IMPORTANCE TO TRAINING AND ACQUISITION OF EXPERTISE IN BUSINESS. -- MORE 1207/ZCM

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HE SAID THAT THERE WERE PLENTY OF JOBS AROUND BUT SOME PEOPLE STILL REFUSED TO WORK AND ADDED THAT THE PROBLEM COULD BE OVERCOME ONLY WITH A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE ON THEIR PART.

THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED THAT THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY WAS DEvised TO ENABLE MALAYS TO HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS THE OTHER RACES AND NOT TO ENRICH MALAYS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE OTHER COMMUNITIES.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES WERE PROVIDED FOR THE MALAYS WHO HAD BEEN LEFT BEHIND ECONOMICALLY AND THESE OPPORTUNITIES WOULD BE MAINTAINED FOR THEM AND THE OTHER COMMUNITIES.

HE STRESSED THAT THE EFFORTS WERE NOT AIMED AT ROBBING OTHER COMMUNITIES OF THEIR RIGHTS MOTIVATED BY GREED BUT TO ENSURE THAT ALL COMMUNITIES COOPERATED WITH AND RESPECTED ONE ANOTHER IN THE INTERESTS OF NATIONAL HARMONY. -- BERNAMA 1209/ZCM