

MAHATHIR-EDUCATION  
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TANJUNG MALIM, AUG. 1 (BERNAMA) -- (2) DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THAT THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY SHOULD BE MADE AN IMPORTANT CHANNEL TO INFUSE THE SPIRIT OF NATIONALISM EFFECTIVELY AMONG THE PEOPLE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE EXISTING WEAKNESSES IN THE OVERALL EDUCATION SYSTEM TO BE CORRECTED SO THAT THE PROPER VALUES COULD BE INCULCATED AMONG THE PEOPLE TO BE HANDED DOWN TO THE NEXT GENERATIONS.

"A NARROW EDUCATIONAL CONCEPT WHICH STRESSES MERELY FACTS WITHOUT STRIKING A BALANCE BETWEEN HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL ELEMENTS AND THE NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CREATE AN EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT TO PRODUCE A SOCIETY DEVOTED TO THE NATION," HE SAID.

HE SAID THIS WHEN OPENING THE EIGHTH EDUCATION CONVENTION AT THE SULTAN IDRIS TEACHERS' COLLEGE IN CONJUNCTION WITH ITS SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT MODERN EDUCATION WHICH IS BASED ON THE WESTERN EDUCATION PHYLOSOPHY AND SYSTEM TENDED TO DIVIDE FIELDS OF STUDIES AND EMPHASISED ON SPECIALIZATION FROM THE BEGINNING AND GAVE PRIORITY TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL RATHER THAN THE SOCIETY.

-- MORE 1535/LK

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HE ADDED THAT THE INFUSION OF NATIONALISM IN THE PEOPLE REQUIRED THE INTEGRATION OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATION WHICH NOT ONLY EMPHASISED ON KNOWLEDGE BUT ALSO AWARENESS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT WHAT WAS REQUIRED WAS THE BLENDING OF SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL, HUMANITIES AND MORAL EDUCATION WHICH WERE ORIENTATED TOWARDS THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SPOKE OF THE GENERATION GAP BETWEEN THE OLD AND THE YOUNG AND OF THE YOUNGER PEOPLE WHO PRAISED OTHER COUNTRIES WHILE CRITICISING THEIR OWN COUNTRY WITHOUT CONSIDERING THE DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS.

THERE WERE OTHERS WHO FELT THAT INDEPENDENCE WAS THE END OF THE STRUGGLE AND A GUARANTEE TO A PROSPEROUS LIFE WHICH DID NOT ENTAIL RESPONSIBILITIES AND HARDWORK. --MORE 1607/PA

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HE SAID THAT SOME OFFICERS REFUSED TO WORK IN REMOTE THE AREAS AS TEACHERS OR ADMINISTRATORS AND THERE WERE OTHERS WHO WERE CHOOSY ABOUT JOBS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO RECRUIT FOREIGNERS TO FILL SOME OF THE REJECTED ONES.

EARLIER, EDUCATION MINISTER DATUK DR SULAIMAN DAUD URGED GRADUATES OF THE COLLEGE TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS VARIOUS POLICIES SUCH AS THE LOOK EAST AND THE LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE.

HE ADDED THAT THE PEOPLE APPRECIATED THE ROLE PLAYED BY ITS PAST STUDENTS IN THE STRUGGLE TO END BRITISH RULE AND URGED THEM TO REVIVE THE SPIRIT OF NATIONALISM TO ENSURE THAT THE COUNTRY IS RESPECTED. -- BERNAMA-1636/PA