

MAHATHIR - STUDENTS
BM

84 FROM HAMZAH SULAIMAN

PARIS, JAN 24 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) TODAY HIT OUT AT MALAYSIANS WHO WERE SENT OVERSEAS TO FURTHER THEIR STUDIES BUT WERE UNGRATEFUL TO THE EXTENT OF REFUSING TO RECOGNIZE THE GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID THAT WHAT WAS MORE REGRETTABLE WAS THAT HE HIMSELF WAS NOT ACKNOWLEDGED AS THE PRIME MINISTER.

SPEAKING AT A MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE MALAYSIANS COMMUNITY HERE, HE SAID THESE PEOPLE WERE MOST UNGRATEFUL TO THE GOVERNMENT.

HE ADDED THAT SOME OF THE STUDENTS REFUSED TO MEET HIM AND THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION WHO WANTED TO MEET THEM AND HOPED THAT SUCH A SITUATION DID NOT OCCUR HERE. -- MORE 2310/II
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HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD SENT STUDENTS ABROAD TO FURTHER THEIR STUDIES WITH THE AIM OF ENABLING THEM TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY -- FOR THE NATION'S DEVELOPMENT.

RATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR REMINDED THOSE WHO WOULD BE GOING OVERSEAS FOR STUDIES TO BE PREPARED FOR THE DIFFERENT CONDITIONS. AND THE POSSIBLE CULTURAL SHOCK.

THEY SHOULD ALSO BE CAREFUL NOT TO YIELD TO UNDESIRABLE INFLUENCES.

THE PRXME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT INITIALLY WHEN THE NUMBER OF MALAYSIAN STUDENTS IN AMERICA WAS SMALL, NOT MANY PROBLEMS AROSE AND THE STUDENTS DEVOTED THEIR TIME TO EDUCATION.

BUT WHEN THE GOVERNMENT SENT MORE STUDENTS THERE WITH THE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY, THE DESIRED RESULTS DID NOT COME ABOUT. -- MORE 2310 BW

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AT PRESENT THERE WERE MORE THAN 10,000 MALAYSIAN STUDENTS IN AMERICA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE PRIME MINISTER HOPED THAT STUDENTS TO BE SENT TO PARIS WOULD NOT BE FACING ANY BIG PROBLEM.

REGARDING FRENCH, HE SAID THAT IT WAS A LANGUAGE THAT WAS NOT KNOWN BY MANY MALAYSIANS BECAUSE NOT MANY SHOWED INTEREST IN IT.
-- BERNAMA 2340/II