

MAHATHIR-JAPAN
BM

84 (10)
KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 9 (BERNAMA)-- MALAYSIA NEEDS TO LEARN FROM VARIOUS SOURCES IF MALAYSIANS ARE TO BE STRONG AND YET BE ABLE TO LEAD A LIFE OF MODERATION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY, THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG IN ADOPTING FOREIGN VALUES WHICH WERE POSITIVE AND WHICH DID NOT CONTRADICT WITH ISLAM AND THE COUNTRY'S CULTURE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHEN SPEAKING TO STUDENTS AT THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE CENTRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA HERE.

HE ADDED THAT THE LOCK EAST POLICY WAS NOT MERELY AIMED AT ACQUIRING KNOWLEDGE FROM THE JAPANESE BUT WAS ALSO TO LEARN THE POSITIVE VALUES FROM THAT COUNTRY.

HE CITED THE JAPANESE WORK ETHICS AND THEIR DEDICATION TO THEIR RESPECTIVE ORGANISATIONS AS POSITIVE VALUES WHICH COULD BE ADOPTED.

IT WAS BECAUSE OF THEIR DEDICATION TO THEIR ORGANISATIONS THAT THE JAPANESE DID NOT MOVE FROM JOB TO JOB IN SEARCH OF HIGHER SALARIES, HE SAID.

-- MORE 2037/0M

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADVISED THE STUDENTS TO ALWAYS PAY ATTENTION TO EFFORTS TO ABSORB GOOD VALUES APART FROM CONCENTRATING ON THEIR STUDIES WHILE IN JAPAN.

HE HOPED THAT THEIR STAY IN JAPAN WOULD HELP THEM BECOME MORE DEDICATED AND CULTURED AND WHO WOULD BE RESPECTED BY OTHERS.

+THIS IS THE GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE,+ HE SAID AND HOPED THAT THE STUDENTS WOULD LIVE UP TO THE EXPECTATIONS.

THIS IS DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S FIRST VISIT TO THE CENTRE WHICH COST 13.7 MILLION AND BUILT WITH THE AID OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.

-- MORE 2040/0M

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MAHATHIR-JAPAN 3 KUALA LUMPUR

ALSO PRESENT WERE DATIN PADUKA DATUK SERI DR HASMAH AND THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO MALAYSIA, ENCIK AKITANE KIUCHI.

IN WELCOMING THE PAINE MINISTER, UNIVERSITI MALAYA VICE CHANCELLOR ROYAL PROF. UNGKU AZIZ SAID THAT THE SETTING UP OF THE CENTRE WOULD HELP EXPEDITE THE TRANSFER OF JAPANESE TECHNOLOGY TO THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THAT THE CENTRE WOULD PROVIDE THE FOUNDATION TO THE MALAYSIAN STUDENTS WHO WOULD BE FURTHERING THEIR STUDIES IN JAPAN IN THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND EDUCATION SYSTEM.

THE NAME OF THE CENTRE, +AMBANG ASUHAN JEPUN+, HE SAID WAS MOST APPROPRIATE AS THE CENTRE WAS ONLY A +GATEWAY+ FOR MALAYSIANS WISHING TO PURSUE THEIR STUDIES AT CENTRES OF HIGHER LEARNING IN JAPAN.

THE FIRST BATCH OF 43 STUDENTS, INCLUDING 25 FROM UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA (UKM) RECENTLY SAT FOR A SPECIAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FOR ADMISSION INTO JAPANESE UNIVERSITIES. THOSE WHO PASS WILL LEAVE FOR JAPAN AT THE END OF THE MONTH.

-- MORE 2050/0M

ZCZC N158

MAHATHIR - JAPAN 4 KUALA LUMPUR

PROF. YOSHIO GONDO, WHO HEADS THE 12 TEACHING STAFF FROM JAPAN, SAID THAT THE LEVEL OF COMPETENCY OF MALAYSIAN STUDENTS WAS MUCH HIGHER THAN HE HAD EXPECTED.

MALAYSIAN STUDENTS WERE HARDWORKING AND DEDICATED JUST LIKE THEIR JAPANESE COUNTERPARTS, HE SAID.

ALTHOUGH THE JAPANESE EXAMINATION SYSTEM IN JAPAN WAS STRICT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE MALAYSIAN STUDENTS WOULD SUCCEED BASED ON THE DEDICATION THEY SHOWED.

THE CENTRE IS EXPECTED TO TAKE IN 100 STUDENTS IN SCIENCE AND SOCIAL SCIENCE UNDER ITS LONG-TERM PLAN.

THE SELECTION WOULD BE BASED ON THEIR PERFORMANCE IN THE SPM/MCE EXAMINATIONS.

MATHEMATICS AND ADDITIONAL MATHEMATICS. -- BERNAMA 2104/MK