

MAHATHIR-STUDENTS

FROM ABDUL RAHMAN SULA IMAN '84

CANBERRA, AUG. 10 (BERNAMA)--PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR.

MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY ADVISED MALAYSIAN STUDENTS ABROAD TO STUDY HARD AND RETURN HOME, AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THEIR STUDIES, TO SERVE THE NATION AND PEOPLE.

HE SAID THEY SHOULD REALISE THAT 'THEY BELONGED TO THE LUCKY FEW WHOSE STUDIES -OVERSEAS WERE MADE POSSIBLE, AS A RESULT OF CONTRIBUTION AND SACRIFICES MADE BY THE PEOPLE BACK HOME.

'THEREFORE YOU MUST NOT NEGLECT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AND SPEND YOUR TIME DOING SOMETHING WHICH IS NOT, RELEVANT TO YOUR STUDIES,' HE SAID ADDRESSING ABOUT 150 MALAYSIAN STUDENTS AT THE MALAYSIAN HIGH COMMISSION HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO REMINDED THE STUDENTS ON THE NEED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACT THAT MALAYSIA IS A MULTI-RACIAL COUNTRY AS THAT THEY SHOULD NOT DO ANYTHING WHICH COULD DISRUPT RACIAL UNITY AND HARMONY NOW EXISTING IN THE COUNTRY.

'IF SUCH THINGS HAPPEN, OUR POLITICAL STABILITY WILL BE DISRUPTED AND THE PRESENT EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP THE COUNTRY WILL BE AFFECTED. THE COUNTRY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE WITH ITS DEVELOPMENT WHICH IT HAD BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE SINCE INDEPENDENCE,' HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARK WAS BELIEVED TO BE GENERATED BY REPORTS THAT CERTAIN MEMBERS OF AN OPPOSITION PARTY IN THE COUNTRY WHO OF LATE HAVE BEEN GOING ABROAD INCLUDING AUSTRALIA TO INSTIGATE STUDENTS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.--MORE

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'I KNOW SOME PEOPLE HAVE BEEN GOING ROUND TELLING YOU THIS IS WRONG, THAT IS NOT RIGHT, SUCH AND SUCH A THING SHOULD NOT BE DONE AND ALL SORTS OF OTHER THINGS.'

'BUT ONE THING YOU MUST REMEMBER IS THAT YOU ARE HERE BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE ARE MAKING SACRIFICES FOR YOU. THE MONEY WE SPEND TO SEND YOU HERE COULD VERY WELL BE USED TO PAY THE SALARY OF THOUSANDS OF WORKERS WHO COULD CONTRIBUTE THEIR EFFORTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY.'

'BUT BECAUSE WE FEEL THAT YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE MORE ON THE COMPLETION OF YOUR STUDIES, WE GIVE PRIORITY TO EDUCATION IN THE HOPE THAT YOU WILL NOT DISAPPOINT US,' HE SAID.

TO THOSE STUDENTS WHO WERE ON MARRA LOAN, THE PRIME MINISTER APPEALED, 'PLEASE AFTER YOU HAVE PASSED AND GOT EMPLOYMENT, DO NOT RACK THE LOAN.'

'WE NEED THE MONEY TO FINANCE THE EDUCATION OF OTHERS WHO ARE AS UNFORTUNATE AS YOU WERE,' HE SAID.

THE STUDENTS HAD GATHERED AT THE HIGH COMMISSION TO WELCOME THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS WIFE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR. SITI HASMAH AND THEIR PARTY WHO HAVE COME FOR THE OFFICIAL OPENING BY DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR OF THE NEW CHANCERY BUILDING OF THE HIGH COMMISSION.--MORE

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EARLIER, EDUCATION MINISTER DATUK ABDULLAH HAJI AHMAD BADAWI WHO ALSO SPOKE TO THE STUDENTS TOLD THEM OF THE VARIOUS STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THEIR WELFARE.

THESE INCLUDED THE SETTING UP OF A SPECIAL MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE HEADED BY HIM TO SUPERVISE THE ACTIVITIES OF STUDENTS ABROAD, THE MOVE TO IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY OF THE MALAYSIAN STUDENTS DEPARTMENTS OVERSEAS AND A PLAN TO PRODUCE VIDEO TAPES TO BE SCREENED TO THEM.

HE SAID THE TAPES WHICH WOULD CONTAIN INFORMATIVE MATERIALS AS WELL AS ENTERTAINMENT WERE MEANT TO GIVE THE STUDENTS THE CORRECT INFORMATION ON WHAT WAS REALLY HAPPENING IN THE COUNTRY TO PREVENT THEM FROM FALLING PREY TO FALSE INFORMATION.

THE CHANCERY BUILDING COSTING A\$1.6 MILLION (R\$3.2 MILLION) HAS A MINANGKABAU DESIGN VISUALISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION'S STAFF.

IT IS EQUIPPED WITH AN EXHIBITION HALL WHICH CAN CATER FOR ABOUT 200 PEOPLE.

A MALAYSIAN ARCHITECT BY THE NAME OF MOHAMMAD HELPED DESIGN A BUNGARAYA MOTIF ON THE WALL OF THE BUILDING WHILE HE WAS HERE ON A FELLOWSHIP. -- BERNAMA