

D388

RE241 DEE
 MAHATHIR-LANGUAGE
 CM

KUALA TERENGGANU, NOV. 18 (BERNAMA) --- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, MOHAMAD WANTS ALL PARTIES INVOLVED IN EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY TO MAKE COMMITTED EFFORTS TO MASTER BAHASA MALAYSIA.

BAHASA MALAYSIA HAD PROVEN TO BE NOT ONLY AN INSTRUMENT OF UNITY BUT ALSO AN EFFECTIVE LANGUAGE IN ADMINISTRATION, TRADE, EDUCATION AND OTHER FIELDS.

THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE HAD BECOME AN INFLUENTIAL TONGUE IN THIS REGION, HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE NATIONAL-LEVEL BAHASA MALAYSIA ELOCUTION COMPETITION FOR ALL NATIONAL TYPE PRIMARY SCHOOLS HERE TONIGHT.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY FLUENT IN BAHASA MALAYSIA HAD INCREASED DAY BY DAY AND AT PRESENT CHILDREN OF ALL COMMUNITIES WERE PROFICIENT IN BAHASA MALAYSIA.

THE USE OF BAHASA MALAYSIA HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO THE TECHNICAL, LEGAL AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID NATIONAL TYPE PRIMARY SCHOOLS WERE PART OF THE MALAYSIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM AND THEIR EXISTENCE PROVED THAT THE NATION ACCEPTED THE FACT OF ITS PEOPLE BEING OF VARIOUS COMMUNITIES AND THAT IT ACCOMMODATED THEIR DIFFERENT MOTHER TONGUES.

+NEVERTHELESS THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE HAS 'A SPECIAL PLACE AND NATIONAL TYPE SCHOOLS MUST GIVE PRIORITY TO IT', + HE ADDED.

THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE SHOULD NOT MERELY BE ACCEPTED AS SUCH WITHOUT CONCOMITANT EFFORTS TO MASTER IT.

THE PRIME-MINISTER SAID THE PEOPLE MUST BE THANKFUL FOR THE PEACE AND PROSPERITY THAT HAD ENABLED THE COUNTRY TO DEVELOP RAPIDLY.

HE REMINDED THE PEOPLE THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THEM TO PRESERVE THIS SITUATION AS IT WAS THEIR JOINT RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THE NATION'S PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

THIS HAD TO BE INSTILLED IN THE MINDS OF YOUNGSTERS PARTICULARLY, THOSE WHO WERE BORN AFTER INDEPENDENCE,

THEY MUST BE TOLD OF THE SACRIFICES THAT WERE MADE IN THE COURSE OF ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE AND THE SACRIFICE THAT STILL HAD TO BE MADE BY THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES FOR THEIR COMMON GOOD.

+IN A MULTI-RACIAL COUNTRY EVERYTHING DEMANDED BY ONE SINGLE COMMUNITY CANNOT BE MET, + THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

EARLIER, DEPUTY EDUCATION MINISTER DATIN PADUKA ROSEMARY CHONG URGED THE PEOPLE NOT TO BE TAKEN IN BY GROUPS BENT ON DISRUPTING THEIR UNITY BY EXPLOITING LANGUAGE AND RELIGION..

SHE ALSO URGED THE PEOPLE TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

SHE WAS HAPPY THAT MALAYSIANS OF CHINESE AND INDIAN ORIGIN HAD SHOWN ZEAL AND DETERMINATION IN UPHOLDING THE STATUS OF BAHASA MALAYSIA AS THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE.

THE ELOCUTION CONTEST HAD RECEIVED THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS WELL AS THAT OF THE CHINESE AND TAMIL NATIONAL TYPE PRIMARY SCHOOLS, SHE SAID, -- BERNAMA