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MAHATHIR-BAHASA
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(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 2230 HRS TODAY, NOV. 23)
KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 23 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR
MOHAMAD WANTS ALL EDUCATED AND PROFESSIONAL GROUPS AND LANGUAGE
EXPERTS IN THE COUNTRY TO MASTER AT LEAST ONE FOREIGN LANGUAGE SO
THAT THEY CAN HELP ENRICH THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS THEIR OBLIGATION TO MASTER
FOREIGN LANGUAGES SO AS TO BE ABLE TO TRANSFER THE WEALTH OF THE
WORLD'S KNOWLEDGE INTO THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE.

+WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL
LANGUAGE TO ITS PRESENT LEVEL HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE THERE
ARE AMONG US THOSE WHO HAVE MASTERED FOREIGN LANGUAGES, + HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT A SINNOR ORGANIZES BY GAPENA, THE NATIONAL WRITERS'
FEDERATION? HERE TONIGHT HE SAID THAT IT WAS NORMAL FOR EDUCATED
GROUPS IN THIS MODERN ERA TO KNOW AT LEAST TWO LANGUAGES.

+THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE ARE DISLOYAL TO THE NATIONAL
LANGUAGE BUT IT WILL HELP TO ENRICH THE LANGUAGE BESIDES ENLARGE THE
PEOPLE'S RESERVOIR OF KNOWLEDGE, + HE ADDED. --MORE
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MAHATHIR-EAHASA 2' KUALALUMPUR (EMBARGO)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT WITHOUT MASTERING FOREIGN
LANGUAGES, THE BORROWING OF FOREIGN WORDS FOR THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE
WOULD BE LIMITED TO BORROWING THE PHONETICS WITHOUT THE MEANING.

+IF ONLY THE SOUND IS BORROWED BUT THE MEANING IS DIFFERENT* IT
WOULD BE BETTER FOR US TO RETAIN OUR OWN WORDS, + HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT BORROWING THE SOUND OF A WORD WITHOUT ITS MEANING
WOULD CONFUSE EVERYONE.

MANY WORDS FROM THE ARABIC, ENGLISH AND OTHER LANGUAGE% USED BY
THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY DID NOT HAVE MEANINGS CLOSE TO THE
ORIGINAL BECAUSE OF LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE LANGUAGES CONCERNED,
HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT IN THEIR DETERMINATION TO UPHOLD THE INTEGRITY OF
THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE, THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO IGNORE
THE NEED TO KNOW OTHER LANGUAGES, ACQUIRE GREATER KNOWLEDGE AND LEARN
ABOUT THE PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT AROUND THEM.

LANGUAGES, KNOWLEDGE AND OTHER POSITIVE FOREIGN VALUES WERE
NECESSARY FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE NATION'S EDUCATION SYSTEM AND
TO TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY AND KNOWLEDGE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES TO THIS
COUNTRY. --MORE

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MAHATHIR-BAHASA 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE TASK OF THE PEOPLE NOW WAS TO
SEEK A SUITABLE BALANCE BETWEEN THE USE OF THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE AND
OTHER WORLD LANGUAGES OF KNOWLEDGE.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE USE OF THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE IN THE DAILY LIFE OF THE PEOPLE AND IN DAY-TO-DAY AFFAIRS SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED, BESIDES ITS USE AS A LANGUAGE OF KNOWLEDGE AND HIGH CULTURE.

HE STRESSED THE NEED FOR JOINT EFFORTS BY INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS TO EXPAND THE USE OF THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE AS A LANGUAGE OF FINE CULTURE.

HE SAID THAT WRITERS AND LITERARY FIGURES SHOULD ALSO PLAY A ROLE IN PRODUCING WORKS OF QUALITY THAT WOULD ATTRACT READERS. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-BAHASA 4 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO URGED PUBLISHERS OF NATIONAL LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF ARTICLES PRINTED, IN LINE WITH THE DESIRE TO EXPAND FURTHER THE USE OF THE LANGUAGE.

HE' ADDED THAT THE PRIVATIZATION CONCEPT SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO THE FIELD OF DEVELOPING THE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE BECAUSE THESE HAD TO BE DEVELOPED THROUGH THE EFFORTS AND INITIATIVE OF THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES.

HE ALSO CALLED ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO MAKE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PUBLICATION OF BOOKS IN THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE AS BOOKS ON KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE OF A HIGH LEVEL COULD NOT YET BE PUBLISHED ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS DUE TO LIMITED DEMAND.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE PEOPLE COULD CHANNEL THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH VARIOUS BODIES SUCH AS YAYASAN KARYAWAN, ZAMALAH SASTERA AND YAYASAN SENI WHICH WERE SET UP RECENTLY.

IN TIME, THERE WOULD BE SPECIAL BODIES CREATED ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE PUBLIC ITSELF TO PRODUCE LITERARY WORKS. -- BERNAMA.

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