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MAHATHIR-YOUTH  
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KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 15 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY LAUNCHED CELEBRATIONS HERE TO MARK INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR WITH A CALL TO THE YOUTH TO ALWAYS REGARD THEMSELVES AND ACT AS MALAYSIANS AND DISCARD ATTITUDES OF PROVINCIALISM.

HE SAID EVERY YOUTH IN THE COUNTRY MUST GIVE EMPHASIS TO MALAYSIA IN ITS TOTALITY INSTEAD OF ALLOWING HIMSELF TO BE CONTROLLED BY EMOTIONS OF PAROCHIALISM.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID, YOUTH PROGRAMMES MUST INCLUDE ASPECTS OF THE MALAYSIAN IDENTITY SO THAT NEGATIVE ELEMENTS WOULD NOT HINDER HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT.

THE YOUTH MUST IMPROVE THEIR STRATEGY AND TAKE MEASURES TO ENHANCE THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN EFFORTS TO MOULD A STRONGER AND MORE PROGRESSIVE SOCIETY AND NATION.

+FOR THIS PURPOSE, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT VALUES SUCH AS RESPECT FOR ONE ANOTHER, LOVE FOR THE NATION AND A YEARNING FOR FRIENDSHIP AND PEACE MUST BE INSTILLED AMONG THE YOUTH,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CALLED ON ALL YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS TO CEASE PRACTICES THAT COULD CAUSE ALIENATION AMONG THE YOUTH, AND CARRY OUT INSTEAD ACTIVITIES THAT HELPED FORGE TOGETHERNESS FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING.

THE GOVERNMENT, ON ITS PART, WAS IMPLEMENTING POLICIES SUCH AS THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY, THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY AND THE NATIONAL CULTURE POLICY IN AN EFFORT TO CREATE A MALAYSIAN IDENTITY.

DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT 76 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION WERE MADE UP OF YOUTH, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID YOUTH LEADERS MUST BE MATURED IN THEIR LEADERSHIP AND MUST BE ABLE TO COAX MEMBERS OF YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADVISED YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS TO REFRAIN FROM SEEKING ASSISTANCE ALL THE TIME AND INSTEAD STRIVE ON THEIR OWN TO MAKE THEIR ACTIVITIES SUCCESSFUL.

ON DADAH, HE SAID YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS MUST PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE BY DIVERSIFYING THEIR ACTIVITIES SO THAT THE YOUTH WOULD NOT FALL PREY TO THE MENACE. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID MALAYSIAN YOUTH MUST BE ACTIVE IN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ORGANISATIONS TO GAIN EXPOSURE AND EXPERIENCE TO ENABLE THEM CONTRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING.

THE PRIME MINISTER PRESENTED PRIZES TO WINNERS OF SEVERAL COMPETITIONS ORGANISED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CELEBRATIONS.

ABOUT 10,000 YOUTHS REPRESENTING 30 ASSOCIATIONS FROM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY PARTICIPATED IN THE ASSEMBLY OF THE YOUTH AT THE STADIUM MERDEKA WHERE DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR LAUNCHED THE CELEBRATIONS. REPRESENTATIVES FROM 14 COUNTRIES WERE ALSO PRESENT.

MALAYSIAN YOUTH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN ENCIK TAJOL ROBLI GHAZALI READ THE YOUTH PLEDGE, AND SCHOOLCHILDREN SANG, DANCED AND PERFORMED GYMNASTICS AT THE ASSEMBLY.

JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHER KAMPO HARADA PRESENTED A CHEQUE FOR \$3 MILLION AS THE FIRST INSTALMENT OF HIS \$10 MILLION PERSONAL DONATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CENTRE IN BANDAR TUN RAZAK HERE. -- BERNAMA  
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