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MAHATHIR-GRADUATES

BM

PULAU PINANG, MARCH 15<sup>85</sup> (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED ON UNDERGRADUATES TO PURSUE A COURSE OF MODERATION THAT ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO ACQUISITION OF KNOWLEDGE AS WELL AS TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID THAT GOING TO EXTREMES, SUCH AS SHUTTING ONESELF UP IN AN IVORY TOWER OR PURSUING A UNIVERSITY EDUCATION WITH ONLY STATUS AND SELF-INTEREST IN MIND, WAS UNDESIRABLE IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY LIKE MALAYSIA.

OPENING A LEADERSHIP AWARENESS CAMP OF THE UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA UNDERGRADUATES ASSOCIATION HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID STUDENTS WHO CARED ONLY FOR THEIR ACADEMIC PURSUITS WOULD LEARN LATER THAT THEIR SOCIAL INTERACTION WITH OTHER PEOPLE WOULD SUFFER BECAUSE OF THEIR OVERLY ACADEMIC APPROACH.

THE SAME FATE AWAITED THOSE CHASING AFTER STATUS, HE SAID. THE PEOPLE WOULD REJECT THEM WHEN THEY CAME TO REALISE THAT THE ACTIONS OF THIS GROUP WERE TOTALLY SELF-SERVING.

+THEREFORE, WHAT IS NEEDED OF THE UNIVERSITY SOCIETY IS MODERATION THAT ALLOWS IT TO ACQUIRE AS MUCH KNOWLEDGE AS POSSIBLE WHILE BEING MINDFUL OF THE DEVELOPMENTS TAKING PLACE AND THE PROBLEMS AND THINKING OF THE PEOPLE FOR REMEDIAL EFFORTS LATER,+ HE SAID.

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+THIS IS THE KIND OF PEOPLE WE WANT, WHO WE HOPE WILL HAVE KNOWLEDGE AND ALSO REALISATION OF THE PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS AND DEPRIVATIONS.

+THE COMPREHENSIVE ENLIGHTENMENT THEY HAVE ACQUIRED WILL DEFINITELY BRING GREATER HAPPINESS TO THE PEOPLE,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CITED AN EXAMPLE WHERE SOME EXPERTS CONDUCTED A STUDY AND DREW UP RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WERE EXTREMELY ACADEMIC IN CONCEPTION, LEAVING OUT THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE SUBJECTS OF THEIR THEIR CASE STUDIES.

+WE HAVE ALSO COME ACROSS EXPERTS MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ARE ALREADY COMMON KNOWLEDGE SUCH AS THAT A SMALL PIECE OF LAND IS UNECONOMICAL, BUT WHO ARE UNABLE TO COME UP WITH RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW THE PEOPLE AFFECTED CAN ADAPT TO ACCEPT CHANGE.

+THESE THINGS CAN BE AVOIDED IF THE EXPERTS HAD DURING THEIR STUDENT DAYS ACQUIRED A REALISATION OF THE SITUATION OF THE PEOPLE WHILE STRIVING TO ABSORB AS MUCH KNOWLEDGE AS POSSIBLE. --MORE

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THE MOTIVES OF SEVERAL QUARTERS WHO WISHED FOR CHANGE TO CERTAIN SYSTEMS IN THE COUNTRY.

THE GOVERNMENT, IN MAKING CERTAIN CHANGES, ALWAYS GAVE PRIORITY TO PEACE AND ORDER SO THAT DEVELOPMENT WOULD CONTINUE UNHINDERED, HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT WHILE PEACE AND ORDER WERE NECESSARY, THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TURN A DEAF EAR TO CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM TO CORRECT ANY MISTAKE MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT.

+THE GOVERNMENT WANTS THE PEOPLE TO BE PREPARED TO OPPOSE ANYTHING THAT IS BAD, INCLUDING LEADERSHIP IN THE GOVERNMENT THAT CAN DESTROY THE NATION,+ HE SAID. IN THIS CONNECTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADVISED THE PEOPLE TO MAKE CRITICISM ONLY AFTER HAVING CONSIDERED THE MATTER DEEPLY.

HE SAID IT WAS NECESSARY FOR PEOPLE TO RECTIFY THEIR WEAKNESSES RATHER THAN ACCUSE A SYSTEM OF BEING WEAK, AND TO REFRAIN FROM CALLING FOR A CHANGE IN THE SYSTEM JUST TO SAFEGUARD SELF-INTERESTS

THE PRIME MINISTER, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, ARRIVED HERE FROM PERLIS AND LEFT FOR KUALA LUMPUR AFTER OPENING THE CAMP HERE. -- BERNAMA

1400MST 15 03 25

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