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 MAHATHIR-LANGUAGE
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JITRA, NOV 14⁸⁵ (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION OF ABOLISHING THE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE OF THE NON-MALAYS IN THE COUNTRY, PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES HAD THE RIGHT TO LEARN THEIR MOTHER TONGUE AND OPEN SCHOOLS WHERE THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION WAS NOT MALAY, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS BN CHAIRMAN WAS ADDRESSING 200 LEADERS OF BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) COMPONENT PARTIES IN KUBANG PASU AT THE UMNO BUILDING HERE.

HE SAID HE FELT SAID TO NOTE THAT ALTHOUGH THE EDUCATION MINISTER HAD RECENTLY EXPLAINED THE INTEGRATED SCHOOLS CONCEPT (NOW RENAMED INTEGRATION OF PUPILS TOWARDS UNITY), THERE WERE CERTAIN POLITICIANS WHO ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF WANTING TO ELIMINATE THE CULTURES OF THE NON-MALAYS.

HE DESCRIBED SUCH POLITICIANS (WITHOUT NAMING THEM OR THE COMMUNITIES THEY BELONG TO) AS PEOPLE DEVOID OF POLITICAL CAPITAL.
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MAHATHIR-LANGUAGE 2 JITRA

ALL QUARTERS INCLUDING DAP SECRETARY-GENERAL LIM KIT SIANG HAD SAID THERE WAS RACIAL POLARISATION IN THE COUNTRY, HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THIS AND BECAUSE OF IT EDUCATION MINISTER DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD ADAWI HELD MEETINGS WITH LEADERS OF CHINESE ASSOCIATIONS AND GUILDS TO EXPLAIN THE CONCEPT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

THE SETTING UP OF SUCH SCHOOLS WAS TO ENABLE CHILDREN FROM SCHOOLS OF DIFFERENT MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION TO MIX FREELY AND GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER.

AFTER THE MEETING THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHINESE ASSOCIATIONS AND GUILDS HAD AGREED TO THE EDUCATION MINISTER'S PROGRAMME BUT THERE WERE STILL POLITICIANS USING THIS ISSUE TO ACCUSE THE BN GOVERNMENT OF WANTING TO ELIMINATE NATIONAL TYPE SCHOOLS.

+THE ACCUSATION IS SLANDEROUS AND I HOPE NON-MALAYS WILL NOT BE INFLUENCED BY THIS DELIBERATE ATTEMPT AT CAUSING CONFUSION AMONG THEM,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

MAHATHIR-LANGUAGE 3 JITRA

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO REFERRED TO THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY AND CERTAIN PEOPLE WHO HE SAID HAD +EXPLOITED+ THE KUALA LUMPUR STOCK EXCHANGE (KLSE).

HE SAID IT WAS TRUE THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY WAS UNDERGOING A RECESSIONARY PERIOD BECAUSE OF THE FALL IN PRICE OF MALAYSIA'S PRIMARY COMMODITIES SUCH AS RUBBER, PALM OIL, TIN AND ALSO OIL.

THE FALL WAS NOT BECAUSE OF ANY MISTAKE ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT BUT DUE TO WORLD ECONOMIC RECESSION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

NEVERTHELESS MALAYSIA WAS NOT AS SEVERELY AFFECTED AS CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD, PARTICULARLY THE DEVELOPING ONES.

IN FACING THE RECESSION, THE PRIME MINISTER URGED THE PEOPLE TO TAKE TWO POSITIVE MEASURES: BE THRIFTY AND INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY.

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B E898 AAE
MAHATHIR-LANGUAGE 4 JITRA

HE SAID HE WAS UNHAPPY THAT CERTAIN PEOPLE WERE EARNING A LIVING BY EXPLOITING THE KLSE.

RUMOURS WERE ALWAYS SPREAD IN KUALA LUMPUR TO THE EFFECT THAT SHARE PRICES WOULD FALL OR RISE ACCORDING TO THE PREVAILING POLITICAL SITUATION.

THE RUMOUR MONGERS CLAIMED SHARE PRICES WOULD FALL BECAUSE OF THE MCA CRISIS BUT ALTHOUGH THE CRISIS HAD YET TO BE RESOLVED, SHARE PRICES WERE NOW RISING, HE SAID.

HE HOPED THE PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE INFLUENCED BY SUCH RUMOUR MONGERS.

REFERRING TO THE MCA, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HOPED THE PARTY WOULD REGAIN ITS STRENGTH AND EMERGE UNITED FOR IT WAS THE SECOND LARGEST PARTY IN THE BN AFTER UMNO. -- MORE

MAHATHIR-LANGUAGE 5 JITRA

IT WAS UP TO THE MCA MEMBERS TO ELECT THEIR LEADERSHIP AND AS FAR AS THE BN LEADERSHIP WAS CONCERNED, IT WANTED A STRONG AND UNITED MCA.

SUCH AN MCA WOULD BE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE NATION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID. -- BERNAMA
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