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MAHATHIR-DISCIPLINE  
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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 9 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT WARNED THAT THE NATION WILL FACE DESTRUCTION AND LOSE ITS INDEPENDENCE IF THE YOUNGER GENERATION STILL AT SCHOOL HAS NO SELF-DISCIPLINE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SELF-DISCIPLINE WAS VITAL FOR THE PEOPLE OF ANY SOCIETY TO REMAIN STRONG, LAW ABIDING AND BECOME CITIZENS OF A SUCCESSFUL NATION.

SPEAKING AT THE MALAYSIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS DINNER HERE, HE SAID TEACHERS PARTICULARLY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY OF INSTILLING DISCIPLINE AMONG THE STUDENTS.

IF THEY FAIL TO INSTILL DISCIPLINE THEN IT MEANT THAT THE NATION HAD FAILED TO ENSURE THAT ITS FUTURE GENERATION WILL EMERGE FROM A DISCIPLINED COMMUNITY, HE SAID.

THE DINNER HOSTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE THREE-DAY PRINCIPALS' CONFERENCE WAS ATTENDED BY ABOUT 600 SCHOOL PRINCIPALS.

ALSO PRESENT WAS DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH. -- MORE  
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT EVEN IF MOST MEMBERS OF A SOCIETY WERE INTELLIGENT IT WOULD NOT ENSURE THEIR SUCCESS IF THEY LACKED SELF-DISCIPLINE.

ON THE OTHER HAND IT WOULD LEAD TO AN ANARCHIST SOCIETY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

EVEN IF MOST MEMBERS OF A SOCIETY WERE NOT INTELLIGENT THEY COULD STILL ACHIEVE SUCCESS IF THEY PRACTISED SELF-CONTROL AND KEPT AWAY FROM NEGATIVE RESPONSES.

+MANY PEOPLE THINK THAT A NATION CAN BE CREATED IF THERE WERE ADEQUATE LAWS BUT LAWS ENOUGH TO FILL 10 UNITED STATES LIBRARIES OF CONGRESS WILL NOT ENSURE PEACE IN THE COUNTRY IF THE PEOPLE ARE NOT DISCIPLINED, HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT MACHINERY WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY IF MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY HAD SELF-DISCIPLINE AND ADDED THAT THERE WAS NO GUARANTEE THAT THOSE ENFORCING THE LAW WOULD NOT ENGAGE IN IRREGULARITIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT NO WORK COULD BE DONE SUCCESSFULLY IF THE PEOPLE DID NOT HAVE SELF-DISCIPLINE. -- MORE  
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WITH SELF-DISCIPLINE AMONG ITS PEOPLE A STRONG NATION COULD EMERGE -- A NATION WHICH COULD ACT BRAVELY WITHOUT ANY QUALMS, HE SAID.

DISCIPLINE SHOULD BE INSTILLED GRADUALLY AT THE EARLY STAGES OF EVERY CITIZEN SO THAT ON REACHING ADULTHOOD DISCIPLINE WOULD BE PART OF HIS LIFE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR COMMENDED THE PRINCIPALS FOR SETTING UP THEIR OWN ASSOCIATION.

AS MEMBERS OF A PROFESSION, TEACHERS NEEDED SUCH A BODY WHICH COULD HELP RAISE THEIR PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA  
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