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MAHATHIR-STUDENTS

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FROM AHMAD REJAL ARBEE

NEW YORK, SEPT 29 (BERNAMA) -- ALL MALAYSIAN SCHOOL LEAVERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO UNDERGO PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL TRAINING TO INSTIL IN THEM HIGH MORAL VALUES BEFORE THEY ARE GIVEN JOB OPPORTUNITIES OR SENT TO FURTHER THEIR STUDIES OVERSEAS.

ANNOUNCING THIS SUNDAY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THAT SUCH TRAINING WOULD BE CONDUCTED AT SEVERAL CAMPS TO CREATE A SOCIETY WITH HIGH MORALS AND WHICH KNOW HOW TO LEAD PROPER LIVES AS WELL AS APPRECIATE THE ENVIRONMENT.

ADDRESSING MORE THAN 200 MALAYSIAN STUDENTS AT THE OFFICE OF MALAYSIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS HERE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT UNLESS SUCH VALUES WERE CULTIVATED AMONG THE PEOPLE, NEGATIVE ELEMENTS WOULD CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE CERTAIN QUARTERS IN SOCIETY.

HE ADDED THAT THE COUNTRY HAD IN SOME WAY FAILED IN ITS EFFORTS TO INSTIL SUCH VALUES AMONG CERTAIN QUARTERS, SAYING THAT THIS WAS WHY MALPRACTICES AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES WERE RAMPANT IN CERTAIN ORGANISATIONS LATELY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CITED THE BUMIPUTRA MALAYSIA FINANCE (BMF) SCANDAL AND INCIDENTS IN OTHER BANKS, COOPERATIVES AND ORGANISATIONS, AS WELL AS THE PAN-ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES AFFAIR, AS EXAMPLES WHERE CHEATING INVOLVING MILLIONS OF RINGGIT OCCURRED. -- MORE

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HE SAID THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH MALPRACTICES WERE HIGHLY EDUCATED PEOPLE WHO SHOULD BE TRUSTWORTHY AND HIGHLY RESPECTED, BUT +UNFORTUNATELY, AFTER WORKING FOR SOME TIME, THEY SEE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHEAT+.

+WHEN THEY SEE MONEY, THEY ARE BLINDED,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS CONCERNED OVER WHAT WOULD BECOME OF THE MALAYSIAN SOCIETY IF SUCH NEGATIVE ELEMENTS, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE EDUCATED, WERE NOT CHECKED.

HE SAID THAT MALAYSIA DID NOT WANT A SOCIETY OF HIGHLY EDUCATED BUT FRAUDULENT PEOPLE. WHAT IT WANTED WAS A SOCIETY FREE FROM MALPRACTICES.

IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS THAT THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO CONDUCT CAMPS WHERE PARTICIPANTS WOULD RECEIVE PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL TRAINING AND BE TAUGHT HOW TO APPRECIATE PROPER LIVING AND PROTECT THEIR ENVIRONMENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO TOUCHED ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MALAYSIA AND ANSWERED SEVERAL QUESTIONS BY THE STUDENTS DURING THE MEETING WHICH LASTED OVER TWO HOURS. -- MORE

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AMONG THE QUESTIONS ASKED WERE ON THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

PRESENT WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, FOREIGN MINISTER DATUK RAIS YATIM, TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN DATUK YUSOF HITAM AND AMBASSADOR TO THE US ALBERT TALLALA.

THE HALL ON THE 44TH FLOOR OF TWO GRAND STATION AT 45TH STREET AND LEXINGTON AVENUE WAS CROWDED WITH MORE THAN 200 MALAYSIAN STUDENTS FROM HERE, NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA, MASSACHUSETTS, CONNECTICUT AND OTHER NEARBY STATES. -- BERNAMA

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