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B E771 DEE  
MAHATHIR-LANGUAGE  
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EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 10.30PM TODAY  
KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 30 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP UNIVERSITIES TO PRODUCE INTELLECTUALS WHO WILL BECOME AGENTS OF CHANGE IN SOCIETY, PRIME MINISTER/DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRED IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING IN THE COUNTRY SHOULD FIND PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS IN SOCIETY, HE SAID.

BAHASA MALAYSIA WAS THE MOST SUITABLE MEDIUM TO IMPART KNOWLEDGE TO SOCIETY AS THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY DID NOT KNOW FOREIGN LANGUAGES, HE SAID.

+IN VIEW OF THIS, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SUCH INTELLECTUALS TO PRODUCE ARTICLES AND OTHER FORMS OF LITERATURE IN THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE,+ HE SAID,+ HE SAID WHEN HANDING OVER PRIZES TO MEMBERS OF THE LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF MALAYSIA AND THE PUBLIC BANK. -- MORE  
1950MST 30 04 86

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B E790 DEE  
MAHATHIR-LANGUAGE 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID LANGUAGE, KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE WERE ALL AS IMPORTANT AS POLITICS, THE ECONOMY, SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

HE ALSO LISTED A NUMBER OF MALAY LITERARY AND CULTURAL FIGURES WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE GREATNESS OF THE MALAY EMPIRE IN THE PAST.

AMONG THEM WERE TUN SERI LANANG, HAMZAH FANSURI, NURUDDIN AL-RANIRI, SYAMSUDDIN PASAI, ABDUL RAUF SINGKEL AND SEVERAL OTHERS.

HE SAID HE WAS MENTIONING THEM BECAUSE HE WANTED THE PEOPLE TO REALISE THEY HAD ROOTS AND A STRONG CULTURAL AND LITERARY BASE TO BUILD UP ON THE MALAY CIVILISATION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID CERTAIN PEOPLE MISINTERPRETED THE GOVERNMENT'S CALL TO THE PEOPLE TO LEARN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES AS A MOVE TO PROMOTE THE USE OF ENGLISH AND UNDERMINE THE GROWTH OF BAHASA MALAYSIA.

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2037MST 30 04 86

D851

B E791 DEE  
MAHATHIR-LANGUAGE 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

HE STRESSED THAT THE LEARNING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES WOULD +IN NO WAY REDUCE OUR LOVE FOR OUR OWN LANGUAGE+ OR AFFECT ITS DEVELOPMENT.

+WHAT SHOULD BE STRESSED IS THAT WE MUST LEARN FOREIGN LANGUAGES WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEOPLE AND THE NATION.+

THE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE BETTER ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE BY LEARNING OTHER LANGUAGES, HE SAID.

+I WISH TO STRESS THAT LEARNING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES IS IMPORTANT AND WILL NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE POSITION OF BAHASA MALAYSIA AS THE COUNTRY'S LANGUAGE OF UNITY AND KNOWLEDGE.+

THE RECIPIENTS OF THE PRIZES WERE ENCIK AWANG SARIYAN OF THE DEWAN BAHASA DAN PUSTAKA AND PROF MADYA HASHIM AWANG OF UNIVERSITI MALAYA.

THEY RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE AND \$5,000 IN CASH.

PUAN SHARIFAH ALWIYAH OF UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA (USM) RECEIVED A CONSOLATION PRIZE OF \$3,000 AND A CERTIFICATE. -- BERNAMA  
2041MST 30 04 86