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B E541 AAE
MAHATHIR-EDUCATION

BM

PETALING JAYA, JULY 26⁸⁶ (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY REITERATED HIS PROMISE TO THE CHINESE AND INDIAN COMMUNITIES THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ABOLISH VERNACULAR SCHOOLS EXCEPT AT THEIR OWN REQUEST.

+THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ABOLISH SUCH SCHOOLS. WE NEVER HAD ANY SUCH INTENTION SINCE INDEPENDENCE,+ HE STRESSED AT THE OPENING OF THE SEKOLAH RENDAH KEBANGSAAN DAMANSARA JAYA HERE.

HE ALSO RE-AFFIRMED THE PROMISE OF GOVERNMENT LEADERS RECENTLY THAT THE LAWS RELATED TO VERNACULAR SCHOOLS WOULD BE AMENDED TO ENSURE THE FUTURE OF SUCH SCHOOLS.

THE PRIME MINISTER HOPED THE CHINESE AND INDIAN COMMUNITIES WOULD NOT DOUBT THE GOVERNMENT'S SINCERITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE FUTURE OF THESE SCHOOLS.

HE SAID THE ROLE OF THE VERNACULAR SCHOOLS HAD BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED IN CREATING A LITERATE SOCIETY. -- MORE
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B E557 AAE
MAHATHIR-EDUCATION 2 PETALING JAYA

HE SAID COUNTRY'S EDUCATION SYSTEM WAS AMONG THE BEST IN THE WORLD BECAUSE IT WAS AIMED AT CREATING NOT ONLY AN EDUCATED BUT ALSO A UNITED SOCIETY.

THROUGH THE EXISTING EDUCATION SYSTEM, RACIAL POLARISATION COULD BE ERADICATED.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE CREATION OF AN EDUCATED SOCIETY HAD IN TURN GIVEN RISE TO A PROBLEM IN FELDA LAND SCHEMES.

IT WAS FOUND THAT EDUCATED CHILDREN OF THE SETTLERS PREFERRED TO RESIDE AND FIND WORK IN TOWNS RATHER THAN STAY ON IN THE SCHEMES.

EARLIER, IN LAUNCHING THE \$9 MILLION KELANG-KUALA LANGAT HIGHWAY IN KELANG, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED TO IMPROVE THE ROAD COMMUNICATION SYSTEM BETWEEN SELANGOR AND THE FEDERAL TERRITORY IN VIEW OF INCREASING TRAFFIC YEARLY. -- MORE
1730MST 26 07 86

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B E558 AAE
MAHATHIR-EDUCATION 3 PETALING JAYA

FOR INSTANCE, 100,000 VEHICLES USE THE HIGHWAY BETWEEN KUALA LUMPUR AND PORT KELANG DAILY, MAKING IT THE BUSIEST ROAD IN THE COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE RAPIDLY EXPANDING AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY HAS GIVEN RISE TO SPINOFF INDUSTRIES SUCH AS MOTOR REPAIR WORKSHOPS AND FUEL STATIONS WHICH PROVIDED NUMEROUS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

HE HOPED THE PEOPLE WOULD BE WISE IN USING THE FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

SELANGOR MENTERI BESAR DATUK HAJI AHMAD RAZALI ALI SAID THE STATE GOVERNMENT HAD ALLOCATED \$234 MILLION AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT \$84 MILLION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS AND BRIDGES IN SELANGOR UNDER THE FIFTH MALAYSIA PLAN. -- BERNAMA
1733MST 26 07 86