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MAHATHIR-LANGUAGE
BM

EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 2230HRS TODAY. (P)

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 30⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT URGED BIG COMPANIES TO COOPERATE WITH LANGUAGE BODIES IN EFFORTS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF READING MATERIALS AND BOOKS IN BAHASA MALAYSIA.

HE HOPED FINANCIAL SPONSORSHIPS FROM THESE COMPANIES WOULD HELP WRITERS TO PRODUCE WORKS AND ENSURE THAT THE POSITION OF BAHASA MALAYSIA AS A LANGUAGE OF UNITY AND KNOWLEDGE IN THE REGION WAS UPHELD.

+THESE EFFORTS WILL ALSO ENABLE THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO PLAY A BIGGER ROLE IN CULTURE, INCLUDING LANGUAGE,+ HE SAID AT AN ESSO-GAPENA DINNER HERE.

HE SAID THIS WAS ONE OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE COMMUNITY WHICH WOULD BENEFIT BOTH PARTIES.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS PROUD OF THE AWARENESS AMONG THE PEOPLE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING THE SUPREMACY OF THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE, EVEN THOUGH OTHER LANGUAGES WERE GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION, HE ADDED. -- MORE

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HE REMINDED WRITERS TO INCULCATE GOOD AND DYNAMIC VALUES BECAUSE SUCH VALUES WOULD GENERALLY PRODUCE CHARACTERS WHO WOULD BE CHERISHED.

HE SAID THEY COULD HELP TO CREATE A COMMUNITY CAPABLE OF FACING THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHALLENGES, ESPECIALLY AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE COUNTRY NEEDED CITIZENS WHO WERE PATRIOTIC AND WHO WOULD NOT DO ANYTHING TO THREATEN UNITY.

+WE ALSO NEED CITIZENS WHO ARE DISCIPLINED, DEDICATED AND HAVE RIGHT MORAL VALUES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE PROUD TO BE MALAYSIANS,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR LATER LAUNCHED THE BOOK +PERTEMUAN DUNIA MELAYU '82+ PUBLISHED BY THE DEWAN BAHASA DAN PUSTAKA. -- BERNAMA
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