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KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 19 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD REMINDED TEACHERS TODAY OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY IN PLAYING AN ACTIVE AND FIRM ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEOPLE AND NATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE ROLE OF TEACHERS IN A COMMUNITY THAT WAS DEVELOPING AND EXPERIENCING RAPID CHANGE WAS WIDE, HEAVY AND CHALLENGING.

TEACHERS IN THIS PERIOD OF PROGRESS THUS NEEDED TO KEEP ABREAST WITH THE TREND OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COMMUNITY, HE SAID WHEN LAUNCHING THE SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THE PENINSULAR MALAYSIA COLLEGE-TRAINED TEACHERS UNION HERE.

HE SAID THAT AS EDUCATORS IN A MODERN COMMUNITY, TEACHERS MUST EQUIP THEMSELVES WITH VARIOUS KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS SO THAT THEY COULD DISCHARGE THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES WELL AND EFFECTIVELY.

TEACHERS ALSO SERVED AS EXAMPLES TO THEIR STUDENTS AND THEIR PERSONALITY HAD AN INFLUENCE ON THE STUDENTS, HE ADDED. -- MORE
1317MST 19 12 07

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THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE TEACHERS THAT THEIR MOVEMENTS AND BEHAVIOUR, BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM, WOULD BE OBSERVED BY THE STUDENTS, AND ADDED THAT IF THE EDUCATORS WERE GOOD SO WOULD BE THE COMMUNITY AND NATION.

A HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY WOULD EMERGE ONLY IF ITS MEMBERS WERE PREPARED TO MAKE SACRIFICES, AND BE RESPONSIBLE, HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE TEACHERS, WHO CONTINUED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROSPERITY OF THE NATION AFTER INDEPENDENCE, WERE STILL INFLUENTIAL LEADERS, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE RURAL FOLKS.

AS SUCH, BESIDES FULFILLING THEIR OBLIGATIONS IN EDUCATING THE PEOPLE, THEY SHOULD ALSO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY, HE ADDED. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID EDUCATION WAS A PRIMARY TOOL IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF NATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND IN INSTILLING THE SPIRIT OF LOVE FOR THE NATION AND THAT TODAY'S SYSTEM OF EDUCATION WAS THE +NURSERY+ FOR THE MOULDING OF A HEALTHY AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE AMONG STUDENTS.

THE SCHOOLING TOGETHER OF CHILDREN FROM VARIOUS RACES WHO WERE GIVEN INFORMATION ON THE CUSTOMS AND TABOOS OF ONE ANOTHER COULD HELP BUILD UP A COMMUNITY THAT WAS MORE UNITED IN THE COUNTRY, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID TEACHERS SHOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PREPARING THE STUDENTS TO FACE THE REALITIES OF LIFE IN A MULTI-RACIAL COMMUNITY.

HE SAID THERE WERE MANY FORMER STUDENTS OF SCHOOLS WHOSE POPULATION COMPRISED THOSE FROM ONLY ONE COMMUNITY AND WHO COULD NOT ADAPT TO THE COSMOPOLITAN SOCIETY.

ON DADAH, HE SAID ALL GROUPS, WHETHER IN THE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTOR, INCLUDING TEACHERS, NEEDED TO UPGRADE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AND EFFORTS TO FIGHT THE DADAH MENACE. -- BERNAMA
1357MST 19 12 87.