

D935

U E128 AAE
MAHATHIR-BOOK
BM

(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 2045 HRS TODAY, JAN 21)
KUALA LUMPUR, JAN 21 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD
TONIGHT URGED MALAYSIANS TO TAKE THE BOLD STEP OF MASTERING FOREIGN
LANGUAGES TO ENHANCE THEIR KNOWLEDGE.

HE SAID A PERSON WISHING TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE COULD NOT AFFORD
TO HAVE A NARROW NATIONALISTIC SPIRIT.

LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE WOULD NOT IMPAIR ONE'S NATIONALISTIC
SPIRIT PROVIDED ONE DID NOT NEGLECT ONE'S OWN LANGUAGE, HE ADDED.

+WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT THE PERSON BECOMES A KNOWLEDGEABLE
CITIZEN. AN IGNORANT CITIZEN IS NOT NECESSARILY A LOYAL CITIZEN.
LIKewise, A CITIZEN CONVERSANT IN MORE THAN ONE LANGUAGE NEED NOT
NECESSARILY BE A DISLOYAL ONE,+ HE SAID.

LAUNCHING THE 1988 YEAR OF THE READER OVER RADIO AND TV
MALAYSIA, HE SAID NO ONE SHOULD HESITATE TO MASTER A FOREIGN
LANGUAGE IN THE INTERESTS OF PURSUING KNOWLEDGE BECAUSE THE ABILITY
TO READ BOOKS WRITTEN IN OTHER LANGUAGES WOULD BRING IMMENSE
BENEFITS.

IF THE KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRED IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE WAS DISSEMINATED
IN +OUR OWN LANGUAGE, THEN OUR LANGUAGE WILL BECOME EVEN STRONGER
AND MORE EFFECTIVE,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE
1840MST 21 01 88

D940

U E131 AAE
MAHATHIR-BOOK 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARG)

HE REGRETTED THE ATTITUDE OF THOSE STUDENTS IN THE COUNTRY WHO
READ ONLY TEXTBOOKS AND GAVE UP READING UPON COMPLETION OF THEIR
STUDIES.

THE MALAYSIAN SOCIETY'S LACK OF INTEREST IN READING HAD
COMPELLED THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE IT COMPULSORY FOR TEACHER TRAINEE
CANDIDATES TO HAVE READ AT LEAST THREE BOOKS APART FROM THEIR
TEXTBOOKS.

+IN FACT IN MALAYSIA, WHICH HAS ABUNDANT READING MATERIALS, WE
SHOULD STIPULATE THAT ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE READ A LOT OF BOOKS SHOULD
BE SELECTED FOR POSTS,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

HE SAID TEACHERS SHOULD PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN CREATING AN
INTEREST IN READING AMONG STUDENTS BY GIVING RECOGNITION TO THOSE
USING BOOKS AS A SOURCE OF REFERENCE IN THEIR ESSAYS OR EDUCATION
ACTIVITIES.

TEACHERS THEMSELVES SHOULD READ MORE TO UPGRADE THEIR
PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY AND EARN THE RESPECT OF THEIR STUDENTS. --
MORE

1851MST 21 01 88

D952

U E135 AAE
MAHATHIR-BOOK 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE READING INTEREST SHOULD BE NURTURED WHILE STILL AT SCHOOL AND STUDENTS SHOULD IN FACT HAVE GONE THROUGH ONCE ALL THEIR TEXTBOOKS WITHIN THE FIRST MONTH OF GETTING THEM.

IN FACT, ALL STUDENTS SHOULD BORROW BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY TO READ AT HOME, AND LEISURE PERIODS SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO READING BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY.

HE SUGGESTED THE NATIONAL BOOK DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF MALAYSIA (MKBKM) PUBLISH A CATALOGUE OF NEW BOOKS EACH YEAR TO KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED ON SUITABLE READING MATERIALS AVAILABLE.

THE CATALOGUE COULD BE DISTRIBUTED FREE OR AT A REASONABLE FEE TO THE PUBLIC AS A GUIDE.

THIS WOULD SAVE READERS THE INCONVENIENCE OF GOING FROM SHOP TO SHOP TO LOOK FOR BOOKS IN WHICH THEY WERE INTERESTED. THE PROBLEM WAS COMPOUNDED BY BOOKSHOPS BEING MAINLY LOCATED IN THE URBAN AREAS, HE ADDED. -- MORE

1915MST 21 01 88

D957

U E137 AAE
MAHATHIR-BOOK 4 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WOULD BE BETTER IF BOOKS OF GENERAL INTEREST BE PUBLISHED IN A CHEAPER FORM SUCH AS PAPERBACKS SO MORE PEOPLE COULD AFFORD THEM.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER HELPING ANY EFFORT TO TRANSLATE ARTICLES BY WORLD-RENOWNED WRITERS INTO BAHASA MALAYSIA.

+I HOPE THE PEOPLE WILL MAKE BOOKS THEIR DAILY COMPANION BECAUSE BOOKS ARE THE BRIDGE TO KNOWLEDGE LINKING US WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT, COUNTRY AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID. -- BERNAMA

1922MST 21 01 88