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MAHATHIR-LANGUAGE

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PULAU PINANG, DEC 3 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD STRESSED TODAY THAT THE PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE AN EQUALLY GOOD COMMAND OF BAHASA MALAYSIA AND ENGLISH.

MASTERING ONE OF THE LANGUAGES DID NOT MEAN THE STANDARD OF THE OTHER SHOULD DECLINE, HE SAID.

A GOOD COMMAND OF THE TWO LANGUAGES WOULD NOT DOUSE THE NATIONAL SPIRIT AND THE SPIRIT TO STRUGGLE FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE AS WELL AS TO HAVE ONE LANGUAGE AS A COMMUNICATION LINK AMONG ALL THE RACES, HE SAID.

+ALL OF US HAVE TOGETHER STRUGGLED FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE AND THIS SUCCESS WE CANNOT DENY,+ HE SAID WHEN SIMULTANEOUSLY OPENING THE DELEGATES CONFERENCE OF THE PENINSULAR MALAYSIA MALAY TEACHERS UNION (KEMMB) AND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KOPERASI KEMMB BERHAD HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID A GOOD COMMAND OF TWO LANGUAGES WAS A VITAL REQUIREMENT IN THIS MODERN WORLD, ADDING THAT MOST EDUCATED PEOPLE HAD TO MASTER AT LEAST TWO LANGUAGES.

+TRANSLATION CANNOT BE DONE IF THERE IS NO GOOD COMMAND OF TWO LANGUAGES AND WE ALSO CANNOT GAIN KNOWLEDGE PURSUED IN OTHER LANGUAGES,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-LANGUAGE 2 PULAU PINANG

+THE PROBLEM OF PEOPLE NOT BEING 'CONVERSANT IN ENGLISH IS NOT EVIDENT YET BUT SIGNS THAT THIS WILL OCCUR ARE ALREADY THERE,+ HE SAID.

A GOOD COMMAND OF ENGLISH WOULD HELP ENHANCE KNOWLEDGE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, ADDING THAT AN UNDERSTANDING OF THIS WIDELY-USED LANGUAGE WAS NECESSARY.

+WE CHOSE ENGLISH AS OUR SECOND LANGUAGE NOT BECAUSE OF COLONIAL SENTIMENTS OR INFLUENCE BUT BECAUSE IT IS THE MOST WIDELY UNDERSTOOD LANGUAGE IN THE WORLD,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID HOWEVER THAT IN EFFORTS TO MASTER ENGLISH OR ANY OTHER LANGUAGE, BAHASA MALAYSIA SHOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED.

THIS WAS BECAUSE THOSE WHO WERE WELL VERSED IN ENGLISH BUT NOT IN BAHASA MALAYSIA WOULD NOT HELP IN THE GROWTH OF THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE, HE SAID. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-LANGUAGE 3 PULAU PINANG

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE STANDARD OF BAHASA MALAYSIA AMONG THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF VARIOUS RACES WAS HIGH BECAUSE BAHASA MALAYSIA HAD BECOME AN EFFECTIVE LINGUA FRANCA.

ON CIVICS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS, HE SAID SERIOUS ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THIS +IMPORTANT+ SUBJECT.

THIS SUBJECT, HE SAID, SHOULD BE TAUGHT BOTH FORMALLY AND INFORMALLY WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOMS.

+HERE IS WHERE LEADING BY EXAMPLE IS REQUIRED AND TEACHERS HAVE TO SET AN EXAMPLE TO STUDENTS ALL THE TIME,+ HE SAID.

ON DISCIPLINE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID DISCIPLINE SHOULD BE INCULCATED IN CHILDREN AT AN EARLY STAGE. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-LANGUAGE 4 PULAU PINANG

HE SAID PUPILS SHOULD ALSO BE TAUGHT TO BE THRIFTY.

+A COUNTRY WHICH HAS PEOPLE WHO DO NOT KNOW HOW TO BE THRIFTY WILL FACE PROBLEMS ALL THE TIME,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA

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