

D816

U E088 AAE  
MAHATHIR-ENGLISH  
BM

ARAU, JUNE 25<sup>90</sup> (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WANTS MALAYSIANS TO FURTHER ENHANCE THEIR MASTERY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

ALL MALAYSIANS MUST AT LEAST BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE WHILE CERTAIN GROUPS, SUCH AS EMBASSY AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, TEACHERS AND PROFESSORS, MUST BE ABLE TO CONVERSE AND EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS IN THE LANGUAGE INTELLIGENTLY, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS NOT TRYING TO UNDERMINE BAHASA MALAYSIA BUT IF MALAYSIA WISHED TO BE KNOWN OR RESPECTED BY THE WORLD THEN ITS PEOPLE MUST BE FLUENT IN ENGLISH.

+WE MUST DISCARD THE FANATICAL NOTION ABOUT BAHASA MALAYSIA,+ HE SAID WHEN ADDRESSING STUDENTS OF SEKOLAH MENENGAH DATUK SHEIKH AHMAD HERE IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS ONE-DAY VISIT TO PERLIS TODAY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID EMPHASIS NEEDED TO BE GIVEN TO MASTERING ENGLISH BECAUSE OF ITS COMMON USAGE WORLDWIDE AS A LANGUAGE OF TREATY AND BUSINESS. -- MORE  
1303MST 25 06 90

D824

U E095 AAE  
MAHATHIR-ENGLISH 2 ARAU

HE SAID THE PEOPLE IN OTHER COUNTRIES, LIKE JAPAN AND INDONESIA, WHO PREVIOUSLY COULD NOT FULLY MASTER ENGLISH, WERE NOW MORE FLUENT IN THE LANGUAGE THAN MALAYSIANS.

+I FEEL SAD BECAUSE DURING NEGOTIATIONS, THE INDONESIANS SPEAK FLUENT ENGLISH AND EVEN POINTED OUT INCORRECT USAGE OF ENGLISH WORDS,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER NOTED THAT THE LEVEL OF MASTERY OF ENGLISH AMONG MALAYSIANS WAS DECLINING.

HE SAID: +WE ALL LOVE BAHASA MALAYSIA. WE WANT OUR NATIONAL LANGUAGE TO BE ACCEPTED BY ALL. BUT, MORE SO, WE WANT TO ENHANCE OUR MASTERY OF ENGLISH.

+THE CHAMPIONS OF THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE ARE MY GENERATION AND WE (DID SO) MUCH EARLIER THAN THOSE WHO (NOW) CRITICISE OUR CALL TO FURTHER ENHANCE OUR MASTERY OF ENGLISH.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT NO LONGER GAVE EMPHASIS TO ART EDUCATION BUT TO INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL-RELATED EDUCATION TO PREPARE THE FUTURE GENERATION FOR PARTICIPATION ON THOSE FIELDS.

+WE WANT TO PRODUCE MORE ENGINEERS, TECHNICIANS AND CRAFTSMEN RELEVANT TO THE TECHNOLOGICAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY,+ HE ADDED.

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1333MST 25 06 90

D828

U E096 AAE  
MAHATHIR-ENGLISH 3 ARAU

HE ADVISED STUDENTS NOT TO TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT BY OPTING FOR EASIER SUBJECTS, SUCH AS THE ARTS STREAM, BECAUSE THEY NO LONGER GUARANTEED EMPLOYMENT.

+IF WE TAKE UP SUBJECTS THAT ARE NOT RELEVANT TO THE COUNTRY'S INDUSTRIAL GROWTH, DON'T GET MAD IF WE ARE NOT EMPLOYED,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE COUNTRY'S POPULATION OF 17 MILLION PEOPLE IS CURRENTLY GROWING AT THE RATE OF 2.3 PER CENT A YEAR.

IF THE GROWTH RATE IS TWO PER CENT, IT WILL MEAN AN INCREASE OF 340,000 PEOPLE A YEAR AND WITH 150,000 SCHOOL LEAVERS A YEAR, IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT UNLESS THEY TAKE UP SUBJECTS IN AREAS RELEVANT TO THE COUNTRY'S NEEDS, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT MALAYSIA NOW GAVE GREATER EMPHASIS TO MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES BECAUSE THEY GENERATED INCOME AND CREATED MORE JOBS COMPARED TO AGRICULTURE. -- MORE

1352MST 25 06 90

D829

U E097 AAE  
MAHATHIR-ENGLISH 4 ARAU

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS CONFIDENT THAT MALAYSIA WOULD ONE DAY BECOME A DEVELOPED COUNTRY BECAUSE IT HAS ALREADY SHOWN ITS CAPABILITY IN THE CAR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

HE SAID: +IT'S TRUE THE JAPANESE HELPED US, BUT IN THE PAST THEY TOO EMULATED THE +ORANG PUTIH+ (WESTERNERS) AND NOW THE +ORANG PUTIH+ ARE EMULATING THE JAPANESE.

+ONE DAY, OTHERS WILL EMULATE US.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH MOHAMED ALI, WHO ARRIVED HERE BY HELICOPTER FROM ALOR SETAR AT 9.30 AM, WERE WELCOMED BY PERLIS MENTERI BESAR DR ABDUL HAMID PAWAN TEH AND STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS. -- BERNAMA

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