

CNS0779

U GE 28-03 00123 EG630

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Mahathir-service

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KUALA LUMPUR, March 28, (Bernama) -- The government is to take into account experience and performance in recruiting, promoting and fixing salaries for civil servants, said the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Public Services Department (PSD) was studying the matter, he told reporters after opening the British Education 1991 exhibition at the Putra World Trade Centre here today.

In his speech, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said it was time to review the high recognition accorded to degree holders in determining posts, status and salaries.

Recognition should also be given to experience and performance, he said stressing sometimes experience should be valued more than paper qualification.-- more

\*28/03/14-51MST

CNS0791

U GE 28-03 00121 EG631

aae

Mahathir-service 2 Kuala Lumpur

In this context, he said, the emphasis should be on fields of specialisation related to one's job.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the government would make a stand on this matter to set an example for other sectors to follow.

In Malaysia, high value was being attached to degrees and their holders were looked upon as capable of doing everything, he said.

+They are thought to be able managers and administrators. But this is not necessarily so,+ he said.

A degree holder could only be regarded as able when he has acquired enough experience and that his qualification matched his job, he said.--

more

\*28/03/15-08MST

CNS0800

U GE 28-03 00121 EG632

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The Prime Minister said shortage of places in tertiary institutions in the country was not created deliberately.

The lack of able academic staff has primarily hampered government efforts to provide adequate places for those intending to pursue further education locally, he said.

Moreover the government required substantial financing to set up institutions of higher learning, he said.

To alleviate the problem, it has allowed for first and second year courses of foreign universities be provided locally through collaboration with Malaysian universities, he said.

The Prime Minister said the government was also studying to let foreign universities set up branch campuses in Malaysia. -- more

▼28/03/15-23MST

CNS0828

U GE 28-03 00169 EG633

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Mahathir-service 4 Kuala Lumpur

The Prime Minister has this to say to parents who thought they were unfortunate by not being able to send their children to study in local universities.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said: + In fact they (the parents) are very fortunate. What they earn in progressive Malaysia can more than take care of their expenses.+

He said many other developing countries disallowed sending of students abroad to save foreign exchange and because of other reasons.

+Malaysia does not stop students from going abroad for studies although this means having to lose more than a \$1 billion in foreign exchange annually,+ he said.

The Prime Minister stressed that Malaysians must acquire a level of knowledge matching those of citizens of developed nations to realise his vision of a fully-developed Malaysia by 2020.

+There is no way Malaysia can advance if its people are ill-educated and have little knowledge,+ he said. -- more

▼28/03/15-49MST

CNS0916

U GE 28-03 00127 EG641

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Mahathir-service 5 Kuala Lumpur

The Prime Minister also emphasised on the importance of mastering and being proficient in English since it is widely used in international communication.

For that matter, he said, even non-English speaking countries recognised as valid, agreements drafted in English.

He said English is not alien to Malaysians compared to people of countries not colonised by Britain who were forced by the colonial masters to take up languages which were now unimportant.

The policy to make English a second language was not motivated by sentimental or historical links with Britain but because English is an international language, he said.

According to the Prime Minister the historical factor was just coincidental.-- more

▼28/03/16-48MST

CNS0935

U GE 28-03 00117 EG642

aae

Mahathir-service 6 Kuala Lumpur

The Prime Minister said those who belittled the need to master a second language should not regard themselves as nationalists or champion of their race.

According to him such champions were those who could lead their country towards advancement.

He said mastery of English would open the doors to almost all ancient and modern knowledge.

Speaking to reporters later, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said even the Japanese used English to acquire other knowledge not passed on by the Japanese themselves.

+Not all the knowledge used by the Japanese are from Japan...they are mostly borrowed from other countries,+ he said.-- more

▼28/03/16-57MST

CNS0987

U GE 28-03 00193 EG643

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Mahathir-service 7 Kuala Lumpur

According to the Prime Minister, most managers in Japanese companies were now required to understand English for international trade.

The government would give special attention to rural Malay students to make them proficient in English.

It has realised that they had very little mixing with those who could give them the chance to use English, he said.

+We will not make English a compulsory examination subject until we are convinced that students get equal opportunities to master it,+ he said.

He lauded the move by the Negeri Sembilan education department requiring students to specially speak English every Wednesday and said other states should emulate it.

To master the language, it was not enough just to be able to read but also to converse in English, he said.

More than 100 British institutions are taking part in the exhibition billed as the biggest ever held outside Britain.

Also present were British High Commissioner Sir Nicholas Spreckley, Education Minister Datuk Dr Sulaiman Haji Daud and the British Council director here Dr Gareth Howell. -- Bernama

▼28/03/17-31MST