

Mahathir-mathematics

WEAKNESS IN MATHEMATICS AFFECTS ENTREPRENEURS

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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 15 (Bernama) -- One of the factors affecting the success of entrepreneurs is their weakness in mathematics, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said here today.

He said such weakness could not be overcome with the aid of a calculator and added that one had to know the basics and the foundation of mathematics "in order to understand the answers we get when we use calculators and other related instruments which only helps to speed up the process."

What was essential was the knowledge and ability to use such equipment, the Prime Minister said when launching the "Bijak Sifir" Programme at the Merdeka Square here.

Dr Mahathir said mathematics was essential for various professional disciplines such as accountancy, commerce and trade as well as entrepreneurship.

He added that these fields needed not only a "mathematical mind" but also a sharp analytical mind. -- more

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He also said that in this context, the steps taken by the Ministry of Education to improve the quality of teaching of mathematics at the primary school level was appropriate.

"It is also necessary for teachers of mathematics to be proficient in the subject in order that they can impart such knowledge effectively to their students," he said.

They must also be familiar with the different teaching aids used for the subject and ensure that the subject was interesting for their students.

Mahathir said mathematics also played an important role in one's daily life and as such, it should be made relevant to the people's needs. -- more

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The "Bijak Sifir" programme involves a competition on mathematical skills for five-year-old students in the nation to improve their knowledge of the subject and it is organised jointly by Amanah Saham Nasional (ASN) and the Ministry of Education.

Eighty-four primary schools from throughout the nation have been selected to participate in the programme which has been categorised into sections to involve six schools from each state.

Earlier, Mahathir and all the guests were invited to take part in a 30-minute special exercise programme called "anamrobic" together with the participating students.

Mahathir said the theme "Cerdas Cergas" chosen for the programme was appropriate as students were required to be prepared "mentally and physically" to face the various challenges in terms of developing the nation further. -- more

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The chairman of ASNB, Tun Ismail Mohamed Ali, said in his speech that the "Bijak Sinar" programme also stressed on the ability to solve mathematical problems through mental calculations.

It was part of a long-term programme organised by Permodalan Nasional Berhad to improve skills in investments.

He said PNB was also planning to establish an information centre on investments to enable the public and the corporate sector to acquire a better knowledge of the investment opportunities in the nation. -- Bernama

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