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Mahathir-teachers

DON'T LET PERSONAL PROBLEMS AFFECT WORK, PM TELLS TEACHERS

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ALOR SETAR, May 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has advised teachers not to let personal dissatisfaction on any matter affect them to the extent of forgetting their responsibility to religion, race and nation.

He said they should always view their personal problems against the larger interests of the country.

This did not mean that personal problems should be pushed aside but the emphasis should be on tackling national problems, he said.

"If we can overcome the country's problems, our own problems can also be solved to a certain extent," he said when launching the national-level Teachers Day celebrations at Dewan Seri Negeri, Wisma Darul Aman, here, tonight.

He said teachers should understand that as humans, everyone would have problems and personal grouses on certain matters. -- more

▼17/05/00-35MST

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"I also have many problems...but life is such. We have to face the problems in life, this plan, that plan, this salary scale, that salary scale," he said.

Humans were not perfect and so was the government, which always strived for perfection by holding discussions, seminars and researches before implementing anything, he said.

However, anything implemented from a man-made decision would definitely have its shortcomings which should be constantly rectified, he said.

"No matter how many defects we identify and rectify, there will still be imperfections...nothing is perfect...whatever the decision there are bound to be dissatisfaction," he said.

The Prime Minister also touched on the government's efforts to introduce new curricula and changes in education to instil the noble character among the present-day generation and that of the future. -- more

▼17/05/00-47MST

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He said all the changes introduced were important to keep up with the times.

"Times have changed. Knowledge that is considered important in the past may not be vital anymore. In order to achieve success, we have to make changes.

"A new curriculum will definitely place additional burden on teachers because each time a curriculum is changed, they have to study the subjects under it," he said.

He said: "But knowledge and education will be meaningless if they are not relevant to the situation. It is because of this that changes were made and for this we now place emphasis on living skills to adapt to the changes and modern equipment."

If this was not done, Malaysia would be left behind and continue to be despised by others, he said. -- more

▼17/05/00-55MST

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In this connection, he urged teachers to equip themselves with knowledge and a positive attitude and to master the new curriculum.

He said teachers should realise that they had an important role to play in moulding the young generation into responsible citizens to shoulder the country's struggle.

Present were Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff and Education Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Haji Daud. -- Bernama

KHY YBY