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Mahathir-Schools

CHINESE OR TAMIL SCHOOLS WILL NOT BE CLOSED, SAYS PM

JITRA, Oct 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government will not close Chinese or Tamil schools but will provide assistance to schools concerned.

Necessary assistance would be provided to enhance the quality of education at these schools, he said when opening a new building of Sekolah Rendah Jenis Kebangsaan (C) Chung Hwa, here.

The three-storey block provides an additional 15 classrooms to the school.

Dr Mahathir also advised students to study hard to achieve outstanding success.

In this way they could also contribute in nation-building efforts especially at times when Malaysia is moving towards a developed nation status, he said.

Dr Mahathir said that among Asean member countries, Malaysia is the most liberal in terms of the implementation of educational system where schools used different languages as medium of instruction.

"Although the national language is compulsory to all students, Chinese and Tamil are still allowed to be taught in schools. For this reason, we have many national type Chinese and Tamil schools.

"In addition, we also encourage Malays and Indians to enrol in Chinese schools. Similarly, we also like to see more Chinese and Indians studying in national schools," he said.

Dr Mahathir said in this way children of all communities would be able to study in the same school and this would help to foster relationship and goodwill among the communities.

He also said the government would build more schools to meet the increasing demand for education.

He said the government wanted the younger generation to be well educated especially in the present age of Information Technology which required greater education than in the past.

"Under this information age, we must strive to become a developed race and able to compete with other races," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the younger generation had wider chances and opportunities to better themselves educationally than those before them.

Also present were Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng who is also Kedah MCA Liaison chief, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid and former Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff who is also the assemblyman for Jitra. -- BERNAMA

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