

30/10/2003

`Dr M's retirement great loss to education sector'

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The education sector will face a great loss when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad retires this Friday.

Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad said it was because of the leader's vision and ideas that the education sector is where it is today.

"From the moment he was appointed Education Minister in 1975, he had always placed great importance on the need for quality education."

He said it was Dr Mahathir's foresight that brought about the introduction of many new programmes in the education system, including the Primary School New Curriculum and the Secondary School Integrated Curriculum.

Musa added that Dr Mahathir's crucial calls for the advancement of the education sector were always timely, despite having raised the displeasure of certain groups.

He said the implementation of policies under his stewardship were those that would remain relevant and would ensure the sector did not lag behind.

His immense contributions to the education system, Musa added, included teaching Mathematics and Science in English.

Speaking after chairing his ministry's post-Cabinet meeting, Musa said Dr Mahathir also pushed for the younger generation's advancement in information and communication technology.

The setting up of the International Islamic University Malaysia and Universiti Utara Malaysia in Sintok, Kedah, he added, was also Dr Mahathir's brainchild.

Tomorrow, some six million people in the education fraternity will attend simultaneous assemblies nationwide to pay tribute to the man whose contributions to the country's education development is priceless.

The Minister will deliver a message, incorporating achievements of the country's education system from Dr Mahathir's ideas, at the assembly.

A special open letter to Dr Mahathir from students will also be read out to mark his exemplary leadership of the country for 22 years.

The event is also to welcome Dr Mahathir's successor, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as the fifth Prime Minister and for students to express support for his leadership.