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KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 27 (BERNAMA)— EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMMED SAID TODAY THE UNIVERSITY AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGES ACT DOES NOT HINDER THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS AS FUTURE LEADERS.

HE SAID THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY THE ACT ON STUDENTS WERE MINOR COMPARED WITH THOSE ENFORCED BY THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT DURING WHOSE RULE MANY OF TODAY'S LEADERS WERE STUDENTS.

SPEAKING ON THE EFFECTS OF THE RECENT AMENDMENTS OF THE ACT AT A TEA PARTY HELD BY THE SELANGOR GRADUATES SOCIETY HERE, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT REALISED THAT IT WAS MAKING AN UNPOPULAR MOVE WHEN IT TABLED THE AMENDMENTS.

+BUT WE HAVE TO TAKE ACTION IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION HOWEVER UNPOPULAR THE MOVE MAY BE,+ HE ADDED.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE ACT WAS ESPECIALLY DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS MAKE FULL USE OF THE OPPORTUNITY GIVEN THEM TO STUDY IN THE UNIVERSITIES. —BERNAMA MORE 207/MD

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THE PROVISION FOR THE AUTHORITIES TO EXPEL THOSE WHO DID NOT ABIDE BY THE GOVERNMENT RULES AND CONDITIONS LAID DOWN IN THE ACT SHOULD BE SEEN IN THE LIGHT OF THIS OBJECTIVE, HE SAID.

+WE MUST RESPECT THE LAW THAT CATERS TO THE GENERAL INTEREST AND THOSE WHO VIOLATE IT MUST PAY THE PRICE,+ HE ADDED.

— BERNAMA 2010/MD