

1971

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 21 (BERNAMA)— THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CAMBRIDGE EXAMINATION SYNDICATE HAVE DECIDED TO INVALIDATE THE BAHASA ONE AND TWO PAPERS FOR THIS YEAR'S MCE EXAMINATIONS. A NEW SET OF PAPERS WILL BE ISSUED.

ANNOUNCING THIS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY, THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, SAID THE EXAMINATION WAS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON DEC. 6 AT THE SAME CENTRES.

PAPER ONE WOULD BE HELD FROM 8 A.M. TO 9.30 A.M. AND PAPER TWO FROM 10.00 A.M. TO 11.30 A.M. — BERNAMA MORE 1212/1B

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MORE THAN 150,000 CANDIDATES WILL HAVE TO RESIT FOR THE TWO PAPERS.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE DECISION WAS MADE FOLLOWING INVESTIGATIONS WHICH REVEALED THAT THE LEAKAGE OF THE BAHASA MALAYSIA PAPERS ONE AND TWO WAS +VERY EXTENSIVE+ PARTICULARLY IN PERAK.

HE ADDED THAT THE MINISTRY REGRETTED HAVING TO RESET THE PAPERS AS MANY INNOCENT CANDIDATES WOULD BE AFFECTED.

+BUT, THIS CANNOT BE HELPED BECAUSE THE LEAKAGE IS TOO EXTENSIVE TO BE TREATED OTHERWISE,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT THE RESETTING OF THE PAPERS WOULD ALSO BE A LESSON TO THOSE WHO BOUGHT +LEAKED+ PAPERS FOR THEY +WILL NOW KNOW THAT THEY CANNOT GET AWAY WITH IT.+

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE MINISTRY HAD REPORTED THE LEAKAGE TO THE POLICE AND INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE MATTER WERE IN PROGRESS. ALL THOSE INVOLVED WOULD BE BROUGHT TO BOOK.

HE FELT THAT THE DISTRIBUTION OF EXAMINATION PAPERS COULD BE CONSTRUED AS A +CRIMINAL ACT+ AS IT INVOLVED THE SELLING OF +STOLEN GOODS.+

+HOWEVER, THIS IS FOR THE POLICE TO ESTABLISH,+ HE SAID.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID SO FAR THE MINISTRY HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE LEAKAGE OF PAPERS ON OTHER SUBJECTS.

— BERNAMA MORE 1250/1B

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+IF SUCH A LEAKAGE IS REPORTED AND IF IT IS FOUND TO BE EXTENSIVE, THE MINISTRY WILL ALSO CONSIDER RESETTING THE PAPERS,+ HE SAID.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE MINISTRY WAS +STUDYING IN DEPTH MEASURES TO SAVEGUARD PAPERS IN FUTURE.+

HE ADDED THAT SOME POSITIVE MEASURES WOULD BE PRODUCED TO ENSURE FUTURE +SAFETY+ OF EXAMINATION PAPERS.

+WE WILL ALWAYS TRY OUR BEST TO PROVIDE AS MUCH SECURITY AS POSSIBLE, BUT IT WILL BE APPRECIATED THAT COMPLETE SECURITY IS RATHER DIFFICULT,+ HE ADDED.

DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THE MINISTRY WAS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN THE STANDARD OF THE EXAMINATION. — BERNAMA 1305/1B