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MAHATHIR-RELIGION

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, JAN. 13⁷⁵ (BERNAMA)— EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, TODAY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF PLACING EQUAL EMPHASIS ON THE TEACHING OF ISLAMIC STUDIES AND SCIENCE.

HE EXPRESSED FEARS THAT MUSLIM PUPILS MIGHT BE IN A QUANDARY IF THE TEACHING OF THESE TWO SUBJECTS WERE NOT PLACED ON EQUAL FOOTING.

IT WAS IMPORTANT, HE ADDED, THAT THE TEACHING OF ISLAM DID NOT CONFUSE THE MUSLIMS AND THAT THE TEACHING OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DID NOT WEAKEN THEIR BELIEF IN RELIGION.

OPENING A MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ISLAMIC EDUCATION AT THE EXAMINATION SYNDICATE BUILDING HERE, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT NOW PLACED EMPHASIS ON THE TEACHING OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID SOME PARENTS WERE AFRAID THAT THE TEACHING OF SCIENCE WOULD MAKE THEIR CHILDREN NEGLECT RELIGION. —BERNAMA MORE 1537/MD

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THERE WAS EVEN A GROUP WHO WANTED THE TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS TO BE LEFT OUT BECAUSE THEY CLAIMED IT WAS NOT IN LINE WITH THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM.

HE URGED THE COUNCIL TO SEEK WAYS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS.

HE ALSO CALLED ON THE COUNCIL TO STUDY THE SYLLABI FOR ISLAMIC SUBJECTS IN SCHOOLS TO PREVENT MISUNDERSTANDING AMONG TEACHERS AND PUPILS.

IF THIS HAPPENED, IT WOULD ONLY WEAKEN ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY, HE ADDED. —BERNAMA 1540/MD