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SENATE-EDUCATION  
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P KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 15 (BERNAMA) -- EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAYS SUBJECTS ON MARRIAGE (MANAKABAT) AND BUSINESS HAVE BEEN LEFT OUT OF THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SYLLABUS FOR FORMS ONE TO FIVE BECAUSE THE PUPILS ARE NOT MATURE ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND THEM.

THESE SUBJECTS HOWEVER ARE INCLUDED IN THE SYLLABUS OF THE KOLEJ ISLAM, RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS AND THE SIXTH FORM.

REPLYING TO SENATOR HAJJAH SALMAH BINTI SHEIKH HUSSEIN IN THE DEWAN NEGARA TODAY, THE MINISTER SAID INCLUDING THOSE SUBJECTS IN THE THE FIFTH AND LOWER FORMS WOULD BE AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN TO THE STUDENTS.

HAJJAH SALMAH THEN SUGGESTED THAT THE SUBJECT OF BUSINESS BE RE-INTRODUCED AS IT WAS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN ENCOURAGING MORE BUMIPUTRA PARTICIPATION IN BUSINESS.

DR. MAHATHIR THEN REQUESTED HAJJAH SALMAH TO SUBMIT THE RECOMMENDATION TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN HIS MINISTRY.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO SENATOR HAJJAH TOM SAUDAH BINTI HAJI OTHMAN, DR. MAHATHIR SAID THERE WERE 73,622 TEACHERS IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA, 30,832 OF WHOM WERE WOMEN. OF THE 5,023 HEADTEACHERS, 330 WERE WOMEN. -- BERNAMA MORE 1755/AI

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