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SENATE-BAJU KURUNG
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KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 16 (BERNAMA) -- THE EDUCATION MINISTRY DOES NOT INTEND TO MAKE IT COMPULSARY FOR MUSLIM SCHOOLGIRLS TO WEAR BAJU KURUNG, THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, SAID TODAY.

P IT IS UP TO THE PARENTS TO DECIDE WHETHER THEIR DAUGHTERS SHOULD WEAR IT OR NOT.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS IN REPLY TO SENATOR HAJJAH SALMAH SHEIKH HUSSEIN WHO WANTED TO KNOW THE SITUATION REGARDING THE PROPOSAL TO MAKE BAJU KURUNG THE UNIFORM FOR GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

HE SAID THE MINISTRY UNDER THE PREVIOUS EDUCATION MINISTER HAD MADE IT COMPULSORY FOR MUSLIM SCHOOLGIRLS TO WEAR BAJU KURUNG ON THE REQUEST OF SEVERAL SECTORS.

AFTER BEING IMPLEMENTED IT WAS OPPOSED BY MANY PARENTS AS IT INVOLVED ADDITIONAL EXPENSES AND THAT GOOD MORALS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE WEARING OF BAJU KURUNG.

THE MINISTRY WITHDREW THE DIRECTIVE AND ALLOWED PARENTS TO EXERCISE THEIR OWN DISCRETION AS TO WHETHER THEIR DAUGHTERS SHOULD WEAR IT.

WELFARE SERVICES MINISTER HAJJAH AISHAH GHANI IN HER REPLY TO SENATOR SAUDAH BINTI HAJI OTHMAN SAID THE MINISTRY HAD SPENT MORE THAN \$259,000 TO HELP FLOOD VICTIMS IN 1973 AND 1974. --

BERNAMA 1633/ZCM