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SLIM RIVER, OCT. 20 (BERNAMA) -- EDUCATION MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, SAID TODAY MORE SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS STUDENTS WERE REQUIRED TO HELP FILL VACANCIES FOR TEACHERS IN THESE FIELDS.

HE SAID THE NATION WAS FACING A SHORTAGE OF SUCH TEACHERS.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF A SCIENCE EXPO FOR NATIONAL SCHOOLS IN THE SLIM RIVER AREA HERE TODAY, HE HOPED THAT WITH THE STRONG EMPHASIS ON SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS THIS PROBLEM WOULD BE OVERCOME.

THE MINISTRY WAS FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO FIND SUCH TEACHERS AS MOST STUDENTS IN THESE FIELDS PREFERRED TO WORK IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID 10 NEW SECONDARY SCIENCE SCHOOLS - SEVEN IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA AND THREE IN SABAH AND SARAWAK - WOULD BE SET UP.

THE CENTRES OF HIGHER LEARNING WAS ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO STUDY SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS. HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA 1154/AK + <

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DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID CANDIDATES IN THE TANJUNG MALIM/SLIM RIVER AREA TAKING THE STP/HSC EXAMINATIONS THIS YEAR COULD DO SO AT ANY OF THE CENTRES TO BE SET UP HERE OR IN TANJUNG MALIM.

A TOTAL OF 41 CANDIDATES FROM BOTH AREAS WILL BE TAKING THE EXAMINATIONS NEXT MONTH. - BERNAMA 1555/BW