

Stolen MICE papers case solved

ALL BURNT BY
SIX STUDENTS
HOPING TO
GAIN TIME
TO PREPARE
FOR THE EXAM



By JOHN PILLAI: Kuala Lumpur, Friday

THE police have solved the case of the 200 examination question papers stolen from the strongroom of an examination centre in Kemaman.

Six students not quite prepared for the examination were the culprits. They told

police they burnt all the papers.

Education Minister/Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said today that police investigations had revealed that the boys' sole aim in stealing the papers was to gain time to prepare for the examinations, because they were not ready.

They had counted on the examinations being cancelled and on papers being re-set.

Dr. Mahathir said the police had questioned the six boys, who had confessed that they stole the papers from the strongroom of the Sultan Ismail Secondary School in Kemaman. "They confessed everything and showed police officers where they had burnt the papers, about four miles from the school.

"The police also recovered some partially burnt question papers. The boys told police that they had not given any papers to anyone. The papers were for 13 different subjects.

Admitted

"The boys admitted that they had entered the strongroom through the air vent at a time when the school watchman was not around.

The Examinations Syndicate also sent a team of officers to Trengganu to conduct their own investigation. Dr. Mahathir added.

He said the examinations would go on, as scheduled, "but just to be doubly sure, we shall evaluate the performance of every candidate in the State first. If it is

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SOLVED**

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found that the performance of anyone or any school is far above the expected results based on normal work, then necessary action will have to be taken."

This action could be the cancellation of the examination for a particular school if it was proved beyond doubt that the candidates had had access to "leaked" papers.

On reports of sales of "leaked" papers in many States in the last few weeks, Dr. Mahathir said there could be a syndicate cashing in by selling false papers.

"When one compares the real papers with the false ones, one can say that the people doing the job are people knowledgeable in school subjects," he said.

Although the papers being sold were in the form of cyclostyled or photostat sheets, the pattern and content of the false papers showed that they were designed "by people who know their job."

The intensive investigations in Kemaman were directed by ASP Anthony Lopez, according to a police headquarters statement issued today.

"The students schemed the theft and destruction of the papers in the hope of delaying the examinations, so that they could have more time to prepare for the examinations," the statement said.