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MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, FEB. 17 (BERNAMA) — THE STANDARD OF MCE AND HSC EXAMINATIONS WILL BE MAINTAINED WHEN THE EDUCATION MINISTRY TAKES OVER EXAMINATIONS FROM THE CAMBRIDGE EXAMINATIONS SYNDICATE.

EDUCATION MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, SAYS MALAYSIA EVENTUALLY HAS TO TAKE OVER THE EXAMINATIONS AS CAMBRIDGE WILL NOT BE COMPETENT TO SET PAPERS IN BAHASA MALAYSIA.

HOWEVER, HE ASSURE THAT THE MINISTRY WILL CONTINUE MAINTAINING CLOSE CO-OPERATION WITH CAMBRIDGE ESPECIALLY IN EVALUATION ASPECTS OF THE EXAMINATIONS.

+THE CAMBRIDGE HAS SET THE STANDARD AND WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN IT, + HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER RECEIVING A SET OF BOOKS FROM AN AMERICAN PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM—BURSON-MARETELLER, AT HIS OFFICE TODAY.

THE BOOKS, ON PUBLIC RELATIONS, WERE PRESENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE FIRM MR. HAROLD BURSON. —BERNAMA MORE 1245/1B

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DR. MAHATHIR SAID WHEN THE MINISTRY TOOK OVER THE EXAMINATIONS, THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY PROBLEM FOR THOSE WHO WISHED TO FURTHER THEIR STUDIES ABROAD AS THERE WOULD BE SOME FORM OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TEST.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH THE TIME HAD NOT BEEN SET FOR TAKING OVER THE EXAMINATIONS, IT HAD TO BE DONE WHEN ALL SCHOOLS EXAMINATIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN BAHASA MALAYSIA.

AT THE MOMENT, THE MCE/HSC EXAMINATIONS WERE CONDUCTED JOINTLY BY THE MINISTRY AND CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS SYNDICATE.

HE WOULD BE PREPARING A CABINET PAPER FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT.

ON MISUSE OF THE TEXT BOOK AID SCHEME, DR. MAHATHIR SAID SO FAR SUCH INCIDENTS WERE ONLY REPORTED IN JOHORE. —BERNAMA MORE 1248/1B

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HE APPEALED TO TEACHERS AND PARENTS TO REPORT TO THE AUTHORITIES IF THEY FOUND BOOKS FROM THE SCHEME IN PRIVATE BOOK SHOPS.

HE SAID IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR HIS MINISTRY TO INVESTIGATE INTO SUCH INCIDENTS WITHOUT SPECIFIC EVIDENCE. —BERNAMA 1250/1B