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MAHATHIR-SCHOOL
BM

ALOR STAR, MARCH 13 (BERNAMA) — DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED TODAY DESCRIBED CHANGES MADE BY RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS, SUCH AS GIVING ATTENTION TO NON-RELIGIOUS SUBJECTS, AS A HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAID THAT MANY RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS HAD INTRODUCED GENERAL SUBJECTS OF STUDY, WHILE ORDINARY SCHOOLS WERE TEACHING RELIGION AS A SUBJECT.

DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE EDUCATION MINISTER, SAID THIS WHEN OPENING THE ISLAMIC STUDIES COLLEGE, A PRIVATE INSTITUTION, NEAR KODIANG, 28 MILES FROM HERE.

HE SAID THAT HIS MINISTRY HOPED TO PRODUCE TWO TYPES OF INTELLECTUALS TO WHOM RELIGION WOULD BE A COMMON UNIFYING FACTOR. THIS WOULD ENSURE THAT RELIGION WAS NOT REPLACED BY A MATERIALISTIC IDEOLOGY. — BERNAMA MORE 1805/YF

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DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT ANY SPLIT BETWEEN RELIGIOUS INTELLECTUALS AND THEIR COLLEAGUES IN OTHER FIELDS WOULD NOT ONLY WEAKEN THEM BUT ALSO CONSTITUTE A DIVISIVE FACTOR AMONG MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY.

TO AVOID THIS, HE SUGGESTED THAT ISLAMIC INSTITUTIONS OF EDUCATION ADOPT A SUITABLE BALANCE BETWEEN RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL EDUCATION.

HE SAID THAT THIS WOULD PREPARE STUDENTS OF SUCH INSTITUTIONS TO ENTER A MODERN AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY. — BERNAMA 1807/YF