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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 6 (BERNAMA) -- THE EDUCATION MINISTRY HAS CARRIED OUT A REVIEW OF THE CIVICS SYLLABUS FOR PRIMARY AND LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE ITS STANDARD.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY IN REPLY TO HAJI MOHAMED ZAIN HAJI ABDULLAH (BN-BACHOK) IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT THAT THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN MADE COMPULSORY FOR PUPILS IN STANDARD THREE UP TO FORM FIVE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.

DR. MAHATHIR, WHO EDUCATION MINISTER, SAID GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS ALSO OFFERED ILAMIC RELIGIOUS LESSONS OF 120 MINUTES A WEEK IF THERE WERE MORE THAN 15 MUSLIM PUPILS IN EACH SCHOOL.

THE PUPILS WERE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO TAKE PART IN RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM THROUGH THE ISLAIC RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES IN SCHOOLS.

DR. MAHATHIR ADDED THAT EFFORTS TO OVERCOME MOYAL DECLINE AMONG THE YOUNG WAS THE JOINT RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT, PARENTS AND THE COMMUNITY. -- BERNAMA 1720/AB