

0570

U E708 AAE  
FIRE-MAHATHIR R'R'R'  
BM

ALORSETAR, SEPT 23 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY DIRECTED THAT PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO SAFETY FEATURES WHEN PUTTING UP SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

THIS WAS NECESSARY TO PREVENT ANY UNTOWARD INCIDENT, HE SAID WHEN HE VISITED THE SEKOLAH AGAMA TAUFIQIAH KHAIRIAH AL-HALIMIAH, AT PADANG LUMAT, YAN, 17KM FROM HERE. TWENTY-SEVEN GIRLS DIED YESTERDAY WHEN FIRE BROKE OUT IN ONE OF THE SCHOOL'S HOSTEL BLOCKS.

AT PRESENT THERE MIGHT BE SEVERAL PRIVATE HOSTELS BUILT IN THIS COUNTRY WITHOUT CAREFUL PLANNING PARTICULARLY FROM THE ASPECT OF SAFETY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID HE HAD DIRECTED THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL TO ABIDE BY FIRE-BRIGADE REGULATIONS TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF YESTERDAY'S INCIDENT.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER PROVIDING APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE TO REBUILD THE SCHOOL'S HOSTEL BLOCKS AND ALSO TO THE FAMILIES OF THE FIRE VICTIMS. -- MORE

1708MST 23 09 89

0574

U E709 AAE  
FIRE-MAHATHIR 2 ALOR SETAR R'R'R'

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REMINDED THE PEOPLE THAT FIRE COULD BREAK OUT ANYWHERE IF THEY DID NOT GIVE PRIORITY TO SAFETY FEATURES.

+FIRES CAN OCCUR EVEN AT UNIVERSITIES,+ HE SAID WHEN REFERRING TO TWO RECENT FIRES AT UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA.

HE ALSO ASKED THE SEKOLAH AGAMA TAUFIQIAH TO REVIEW THE USE OF STOVES AND ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES BY HOSTEL STUDENTS FOR COOKING AT THE SCHOOL.

THE PRIME MINISTER ACCOMPANIED BY EDUCATION MINISTER ANWAR IBRAHIM AND INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT ARRIVED AT THE SCHOOL AT 1.55PM ON BOARD AN RMAF NURI HELICOPTER FROM PULAU PINANG.

HE SPENT ABOUT 45 MINUTES INSPECTING THE SCHOOL INCLUDING THE SCENE OF YESTERDAY'S FIRE. -- MORE

1717MST 23 09 89

-U · E712 AAE  
FIRE-MAHATHIR 3 ALOR SETAR ۹'۹'۹'

BEFORE LEAVING THE SCHOOL, THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS HEARTFELT **CONDOLENCES** TO THE FAMILIES OF THE 27 CHILDREN WHO DIED IN THE FIRE.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS DISMAY AND SADNESS OVER THE TRAGEDY.

ENCIK **ANWAR** IBRAHIM SAID HE HAD BEEN DIRECTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO STUDY THE COST OF REBUILDING THE SCHOOL HOSTEL.

IN KUALA **LUMPUR**, HEAD OF THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS UNIT OF THE EDUCATION MINISTRY, ENCIK **BADARUDDIN HAT SALLEH** SAID THE **MINISTRY** HAD DISTRIBUTED CIRCULARS (**NO 8, 1978**) TO ALL **GOVERNMENT** AND **GOVERNMENT AIDED** SCHOOLS LISTING GUIDELINES ON FIRE DRILLS IN SCHOOLS. -- MORE

1727MST 23 09 89

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U E721 AAE  
FIRE-MAHATHIR 4 ALOR SETAR ۹'۹'۹'

A SPOKESMAN OF THE SELANGOR FOUNDATION SAID STUDENTS AT ITS ASRAMA TUN DR **ISMAIL**, ASRAHA TOH PUAN NORASHIKIN AND ASRAHA DR LATIFF HERE AS WELL AS THE ASRAHA YAYASAN SELANGOR IN KLANG WERE NOT ALLOWED TO USE ANY TYPE OF ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES IN THEIR ROOMS EVEN HEATERS.

THE HOSTEL MANAGEMENT PROVIDED **FOOD, DRINKS, LAUNDRY SERVICE** AND OTHER FACILITIES TO THE STUDENTS AND ALSO CONDUCTED FIRE DRILLS, HE SAID.

PRINCIPAL OF THE HAKTAB ADABI **PAHANG**, ENCIK **ABDUL HALIH SALLEH** SAID THE COLLEGE ENFORCED STRICT RULES ON THE-USE OF ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES.

HEAD OF THE SELANGOR ISLAHIC RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT EDUCATION DIVISION SAID ITS 201 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS WITH NEARLY 121000 STUDENTS WERE BUILT BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND HAD SAFETY FEATURES.

THE FEDERATION OF MALAYSIAN CONSUMER ASSOCIATIONS (**FOMCA**) HOPED THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY WOULD SET STANDARDS FOR KEROSENE. IT WAS REPORTED THAT STUDENTS OF THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL IN WHICH 27 HOSTELITES DIED USED KEROSENE STOVES FOR COOKING.

IN IPOH PRESIDENT OF THE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATION FOR CONSUMERS (**ERA CONSUMER**) **PUAN JOSIE ZAINI** URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO SET UP AN INDEPENDENT PANEL WITH RESPONSIBILITIES TO ENSURE THAT HOSTELS IN **SCHOOLS**, COLLEGES AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING WERE SAFE.

**PUAN JOSIE** ALSO EXPRESSED DISTRESS OVER THE DEATH OF THE 27 GIRLS. -- MORE

1811MST 23 09 89

U E722 AAE  
FIRE-MAHATHIR 5 ALOR SETAR ۹'۹'۹'

MEANWHILE A CONTINUOUS STREAM OF PEOPLE WERE SEEN **MAKING** THEIR WAY TO THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL.

TILL **11AM** TODAY A SUM OF **\$27,000** HAD BEEN COLLECTED IN DONATIONS FOLLOWING THE TRAGEDY.

THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES HAD SET UP THREE COMMITTEES -- FIRE TRAGEDY FUND **COMMITTEE**, STUDENTS ACCIDENT AID FUND COMMITTEE AND STUDENTS SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE. -- BERNAHA

1812MST 23 09 89