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Mahathir-holiday

MAHATHIR ASKS STATES TO CONSIDER SWITCHING TO SUNDAY WEEKEND

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ALOR SETAR, Jan 13 (Bernama) -- States which observe Friday as the weekly holiday should consider switching to it to Sunday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"The concept of a weekly holiday when no work should be done is a Jewish practice but Muslims should be able to work everyday," he told reporters after a meeting with Kedah state executive councillors and district officers. here. Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff was also present.

Dr Mahathir said that strict adherence to that practice would make one defenceless when confronted by someone who had come to murder.

The prime minister said Muslims can work everyday but often there were Muslims (in states with a Friday weekly holiday) who did not attend prayers but went on holiday instead.

He said the people were free to go on a holiday if the weekly holiday was on a Sunday, and they could still attend prayers on a working day Friday because they were given the time to do so. -- more

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"I feel states which continue to maintain Friday as the weekly holiday should consider switching it to Sunday because, according to Islam, we do not have to have a weekly holiday on Friday," he said.

Kedah, Kelantan and Terengganu still maintain the weekly holiday on Friday. Johor and Perlis switched to Sunday on Jan 1 this year.

"According to Islam, we do not have to have a holiday on Friday, and in Kuala Lumpur itself Muslims go for prayers on Friday and mosques are crowded," he said.

Asked whether the matter might be turned into a political issue by certain quarters, Dr Mahathir said they would do it because they did not understand Islamic teachings.

"They want Friday to be a weekly holiday to rest not to attend prayers," he said. -- Bernama

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