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Campaign to promote IT, fight social ills

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Barisan Nasional component parties will begin carrying out programmes to promote Information Technology and combat social ills.

The Information Ministry had also been instructed by the Cabinet to promote IT in its programmes.

Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, who is also Barisan Nasional secretary-general, said he would submit his ministry's proposal for a full-scale campaign with the mass media.

He was speaking after receiving a courtesy visit from secretary-general of Libya's Foreign Relations and International Co-operation Secretariat Dr Salem I. Salem at Angkasapuri today.

On his meeting with Salem, Mohamed said they discussed co-operation between the ruling political parties of Malaysia and Libya.

"I have received an invitation to visit Libya and hope to bring some Barisan Nasional delegates to Tripoli in October," he said.

He added they also discussed issues on information distribution in both countries and hoped to sign a memorandum of understanding soon.

Malaysia, he said, wanted the Organisation of Islamic Conference to establish a satellite network to counter the foreign media's slanderous reports on Islam.

RTM had sign an agreement with a Middle-East based station, the Middle-Eastern Broadcasting Company, to air television programmes on Malaysian society life to Europeans.

Mohamed said he met the company's executive chief yesterday and discussed suitable programmes in English and Arab language to be aired in Europe.

Later, he also received a courtesy visit from the New Zealand High Commissioner Timothy Hannah at Angkasapuri.

Mohamed also said he would instruct RTM to start using apt words like "Christian terrorists" in future broadcasts to refer to terrorists who are not Muslims.

This was to counter the Western media's habit of referring to Middle-Eastern terrorists as "Muslim terrorists".

"This is only fair to balance the Western media reports that associate all terrorism with Islam."

He was commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's suggestion yesterday that the media from Islamic countries use "Christian terrorists" or "Catholic terrorists" when referring to acts of terrorism carried out by non-Muslims.

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