

08 AUG 1997

MAHATHIR:GOVERNMENT TO STREAMLINE SYARIAH LAWS, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 8 (Bernama) -- The government will streamline the Syariah laws in the country to prevent actions that may tarnish the image of Islam, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the streamlining will include a review of the role and powers of religious officials, especially muftis, in issuing fatwas as these are seen as being inconsistent with their role as religious advisors to the government.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said this after chairing a four-hour meeting of the party's supreme council here. -- BERNAMA

rn