

03/03/1997

Mohamed to meet religious reps over request

JOHOR BARU, Sun. - Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today he would be meeting representatives of the Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Sikh, on their request for extra air-time for non-Muslim religious programmes.

Mohamed said he was prepared to meet those who had written to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad requesting for non-Muslim religious programmes on television.

He added that the meeting would enable his ministry to understand what exactly the council wanted.

His statement came in the wake of a recent newspaper report quoting DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang as saying that television and radio stations should grant air-time for religious programmes for non-Muslims to build a morally strong society.

Lim had said there was a need for such programmes as social ills were faced by all communities.

Mohamed said there was no provision in the law to provide religious programmes other than for Islam.

"However, we do broadcast the religious activities of other races because the country acknowledges the freedom of worship.

"So far, there is enough coverage on religious activities especially during festive seasons," he told reporters at the annual general meeting of the Sekolah Agama Dato' Onn Jaafar's welfare society.

Mohamed, however, said it was up to the Cabinet to decide if other religious information could be broadcast.

(END)