

09 AUG 1998

Najib

BE AN INFORMED SOCIETY BUT REJECT RUMOURS, SAYS NAJIB

PEKAN, Aug 9 (Bernama) -- Efforts to make Malaysians an informed and discerning society will be in vain if Malaysians continue to accept rumours wholesomely without verifying their authenticity, said Umno vice president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Given such an attitude, Najib, who is Education Minister, said there was a need to educate Malaysians not to accept any information at face value without verifying its truth.

This was necessary to counter the negative aspects of the Internet which was being abused to circulate lies and other uncensored literature, said Najib when approached by reporters after closing the Pekan district-level civics quiz here late yesterday.

Najib is also the Member of Parliament for Pekan.

Last Friday Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad revealed attempts by saboteurs to spread rumours through the Internet to create disturbances in Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir had said the Internet was being used for writing poison-pen letters to create tension between one group against another.

Najib also said his ministry would coordinate the selection of 6,000 poor rural students to be spectators at next month's '98 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur.

"We'll identify those who have never been to Kuala Lumpur to give them the opportunity to be part of a historic event and use the experience as an inspiration for self-advancement," he said.

He said their trip would be made possible by United Engineers Malaysia (UEM) which would provide transportation, accommodation, food, uniform and insurance coverage.

The students would also be taken on side-trips to visit landmarks in the federal capital, including the Petronas twin-towers in the Kuala Lumpur City Centre and the KL International Airport in Sepang, he said.

They would be selected from among primary schoolers in standards five and six and first and second formers of secondary schools.

-- BERNAMA

ROS rn