

31 DEC 1999

DR MAHATHIR HOLDS MEETING WITH GROUP OF ULAMA

PUTRAJAYA, Dec 31 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad held a meeting and discussion with a group of 184 ulama and religious leaders from all over the country, here, today.

The group included mufti and religious teachers, leaders and lecturers from local institutions of higher learning and schools and state executive councillors in charge of religion.

Also present at the two-and-a-half-hour discussion were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Paduka Abdul Hamid Othman.

The discussion was aimed at getting feedback from the ulama to enable the government leaders to know about matters relating to religion and religious institutions.

Abdul Hamid's press secretary, Haji Shamsul Najmi Shamsuddin, told reporters that the discussion was also aimed at improving, changing and updating matters relating to religion and religious institutions.

He said Dr Mahathir gave serious attention to restoring the religious image and the feedback from the ulama was good.

Shamsul Najmi said the group's three-day programme started yesterday. A working paper on the role of the ulama in the new millennium will be tabled in the afternoon session.

-- BERNAMA

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