

16 JUL 1999

MAHATHIR CHAIRS ISLAMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL MEETING

PUTRAJAYA, July 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today chaired the 40th meeting of the National Council for Islamic Affairs at the Prime Minister's Department here.

The meeting discussed efforts to intensify propagation of Islam and to check the spread of deviationist teachings among Muslims, a statement from the Office of the Prime Minister said.

A proposal to conduct a Sijil Tinggi Agama Malaysia (STAM) (Malaysian Higher Islamic Certificate) examination was also discussed, said the statement issued after the meeting.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Paduka Dr Abdul Hamid Othman also attended the meeting which lasted more than two hours.

Menteris Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad (Terengganu), Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib (Perak), Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad (Negeri Sembilan), Datuk Adnan Yaakob (Pahang) and Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim (Perlis) were also present.

Others present were Chief Ministers Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin (Melaka) and Datuk Osu Haji Sukam (Sabah) and representatives of the other menteris besar or chief ministers.

Director-General of the Islamic Advancement Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin also took part in the meeting.

-- BERNAMA

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