

20 AUG 2001

Abdullah-Ills

CABINET TO HOLD SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS SOCIAL ILLS

MELAKA, Aug 20 (Bernama) -- The Cabinet will hold a meeting specially to discuss social ills plaguing the Malaysian society upon the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's return from overseas, said his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today.

"Let Dr Mahathir himself chair the special meeting. Obviously he himself would want to know about the feedback and analyses on the feedback submitted to him on problems facing society," said the Deputy Prime Minister.

Abdullah, who is also the Home Minister, said this when asked to comment on today's news reports about four pupils of a primary school in Perak being caught indulging in oral sex in the classroom last week.

Dr Mahathir is currently in Uganda attending the Global 2001 Smart Partnership International Dialogue in Kampala.

He was approached on the matter after opening the annexe of the Sekolah Rendah Jenis Kebangsaan Cina, Bukit Beruang here.

Last week the cabinet committee on social ills, which Abdullah chairs, received reports from the National Unity and Social Development Ministry and other ministries on social problems and ways of dealing with them.

As for the Perak case, Abdullah expressed dismay and revulsion at the parents for allowing their children to view pornographic videos.

"Such parents are not to be emulated. No matter how liberal they want to be, they should not let their children do what they like because being members of society, the pupils could influence their peers in the class into committing decadent acts," he said.

According to the news reports, the standard two pupils performed oral sex on one another under their desks after their teacher left the classroom.

Addressing the function earlier, Abdullah reminded parents, teachers and school administrators of their heavy responsibility of inculcating among children the virtues of racial tolerance and mutual respect from small.

He assured the non-Bumiputera, including the Chinese and Indians, that vernacular schools would continue to exist as their rights to practise own cultures and speak their mother tongue were enshrined in the federal constitution.

"There is nothing to worry about. Chinese and Tamil-type national schools shall continue to exist in our country," he said.

Abdullah, who is also the Home Minister, reminded the people of the inclination of a small segment of Malaysians to adopt militancy as a means to realise their cause at the expense of national well-being.

In dealing with such elements, Abdullah said Malaysians should continue to uphold the rule of law and the constitution, among the prerequisites that had ensured Malaysia's advancement thus far.

He added that the government had always been thankful that Malaysians at large appreciated and backed its actions against such destructive elements.

-- BERNAMA

APG NO RYN