

08 AUG 2001

Mahathir-VCD

CABINET CONCERNED ABOUT SALE OF PORN VCDs

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Cabinet decided to disallow the sale of VCDs in the open because it was concerned about the sale of pornographic VCDs.

He said the government had discovered that practically every one of the VCD traders was selling the pornographic VCDs apart from the pirated VCDs.

"So, because of that, we have decided on no selling of VCDs outside. They must be located in proper premises and they must be licensed and we will inspect every now and again," he told a news conference after a closed-door special briefing for Umno members at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

Dr Mahathir said the Cabinet was unable to discuss the juvenile problem today because they wanted to concentrate on the VCD issue.

He had said recently that the Cabinet meeting today would solely discuss the juvenile problem.

He said the Cabinet also decided to allow vernacular school students whose parents earned RM1,000 and below a month to receive textbook aid.

He said that previously these students did not receive aid from the textbook loan scheme like those in the national schools because the government wanted to attract students to the national schools.

"If we gave the same facilities to the vernacular schools, then there'll be no difference and so there'll no attraction for the national schools," he said.

Dr Mahathir stressed that the policy had nothing to do with race or descent but was related to the schools.

"If the Chinese students attend the national schools, they will get the same facilities. Similarly, if the Malay students go to vernacular schools, they will receive the same treatment as the vernacular schools.

"Please don't make this a racial issue," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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