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Study on weaknesses in education soon

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The Government will study the weaknesses in the education system which have resulted in some parents not sending their children to national schools, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Dr Mahathir said there could be too much emphasis on religion in these schools, resulting in some non-Muslim parents having second thoughts about sending their children there.

He added that national schools were originally set up to also get non-Malays to study there.

"Because of some confusion over the education system, it had not been able to achieve the desired results.

"It is untrue the education system was aimed at dividing the races," said Dr Mahathir who is also Umno president after chairing a three-hour party supreme council meeting today.

"National schools are less effective than Chinese national-type schools. There are problems (in national schools) like not enough attention given to discipline.

"This is considered important by Chinese parents," he said, adding that these problems should be rectified.

Recently, Singapore Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew inferred that Malaysia's education system was racially-oriented.

On several Gerakan Wanita leaders' opposition to the Internal Security Act, Dr Mahathir said it was a view of the minority.

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