

24 OCT 2002

Mahathir-Ramadan

AVOID TROUBLE WHEN DELIVERING RELIGIOUS TALK DURING RAMADAN

ALOR STAR, Oct 24 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, today urged Muslims not to abuse the religious talk or tazkirah during the terawih prayers in the month of Ramadan and disrupt the concentration of the faithful.

"I ask that there be no disruption of the terawih prayers. Do not bring into the tazkirah, topics alien to religion such as politics of hatred," he told reporters after attending the Kubang Pasu Umno Division conference at the Holiday Villa here.

Earlier launching the Yadim Gerak Mesra and Tazkirah programme here, Dr Mahathir said such activities of introducing feelings of hatred among Muslims while delivering the tazkirah occurred in certain places last year.

Dr Mahathir said the government would monitor the situation and if there were people carrying out such activities this year, firm action would be taken.

The first day of Ramadan is expected to fall on Nov 6.

Replying to reporters' questions on reports that the MCA wanted Science and Mathematics to be taught in English outside of normal school hours, Dr Mahathir said the MCA proposal would be discussed at the Barisan Nasional Supreme Council meeting.

"I cannot answer that question here. We have to wait for the MCA to submit its proposal and then it will be discussed at the BN Supreme Council," he said.

The Prime Minister said that at the BN Supreme Council meeting on Thursday, there were Chinese-based parties such as the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) which had agreed to the implementation of English and in fact there were Chinese schools which were already teaching the two subjects in English.

The news reports said Chinese based-parties in the BN had been given a week from Thursday to come up with proposals to implement the teaching of Science and Mathematics in English from next year.

-- BERNAMA

MZM JM AAM