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Mahathir-school

NATIONAL SCHOOL CURRICULUM TO TEACH REAL TEACHINGS OF ISLAM, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 30 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister said the government wants to improve the national school curriculum by introducing a curriculum which teaches the real teachings of Islam.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the government had no intention of keeping the community-based Islamic religious schools or Sekolah Agama Rakyat (SAR) because the financial assistance provided was used to teach things contrary to the teachings of Islam.

The move was aimed at rescuing the students by providing facilities that provided the real teachings of Islam so they would be well behaved, would regard all Muslims as brothers and would not mix religious obligations with other interests, he said at a news conference after chairing the Umno Supreme Council meeting here today.

Dr Mahathir said at present many of those who had sent their children to SAR had agreed to relocate their children to national schools.

"We know that some people want to save SAR. It is not these schools that Umno wants to save but the Islamic religious education.

"We told them that they were not teaching the real religion of Islam because the behaviour of their students did not reflect that of Muslims, calling others names, `firaun' (Pharoah) and `zalim' (cruel)," he said.

In the same news conference, Dr Mahathir also touched on the conflict in Iraq. "We fear of the adverse effect in the event of war in Iraq to the economy.

"We have studied certain possible scenarios on the impact of war in Iraq."

He also advised Malaysians to be thrifty and to spend wisely as this way they would help to strengthen the country's economy.

Dr Mahathir also expected the country's economy to remain firm at four per cent last year despite various unfavourable events.

-- BERNAMA

MFZ SHI MFJ ABG