

30 JAN 2003

Abdullah-education

SECULAR EDUCATION SIGNIFICANT FOR MALAYSIA'S FUTURE

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 30 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the secular education is significant in the school curriculum for the sake of the country's future.

"It is very, very significant. And we have tough time trying to convince the people that we must do this for the sake of the future, for Malaysia...to be more competitive. We have to, we cannot just ignore," he said in an interview aired in CNBC TV tonight.

He said the changes had been made due to situation which demanded changes in the curriculum.

When asked about if the secular education should form the majority of the school curricula in Malaysia, Abdullah said the Muslims did not like the idea of anything that is secular.

"I am telling you that it is not secular. It is not secular in the sense that in our schools we do provide teaching of the Quran and Hadith and other subjects," he said.

According to Abdullah, there had been a lot of arguments that Malaysia education system was not Islamic enough.

"My reply and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dr Mahathir's reply has been...it is not an Islamic system and if it is an Islamic system, non-Muslims will never go to school," he said.

He said that if that was the case, the national schools would be abandoned by the non-Muslims.

Abdullah said there must be a balance between the various subjects offered in national schools.

"We cannot make everything compulsory...We cannot teach everything when they are in primary schools. We cannot teach everything when they are in secondary schools," he said.

According to Abdullah some people choose to send their children to the religious schools because they felt they could gain more from such schools.

-- BERNAMA

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