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#### New religious education system to be unveiled

MUAR, Mon. - Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to announce the setting up of a new religious education system during the party's special gathering at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur on Feb 13.

Party vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the announcement would be in line with the gathering's main agenda to explain the Federal Government's decision to stop its financial assistance to Sekolah Agama Rakyat (SAR or the People's Religious Schools).

He said the new system was being introduced to solve the problem caused by SAR failing to inculcate students with the true teachings of Islam.

Muhyiddin said a huge amount of money was needed for the new system, including for new buildings, equipment and trained teachers.

He said the system would have a regulated and comprehensive curriculum.

The introduction of the system would ease the worries of parents who were anxious about their children's religious education, Muhyiddin said after attending the silver jubilee celebrations of Kampung Baharu Melayu in Lenga over the weekend.

He said the Umno special gathering would enable all, especially party members, to understand what was being done by the Government to solve problems arising from the present religious education system.

He said the gathering was important because the Opposition, especially Pas, was exploiting the SAR issue and accusing the Government of trying to secularise the country's religious education system.