

Special unit to tackle deviationists

A SPECIAL unit has been set up in the Islamic Affairs Division in the Prime Minister's Department to carry out efforts to eradicate deviationist teachings throughout the country, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told the Dewan Rakyat.

The Prime Minister said the division was using various methods to bring those influenced by these groups back to the right path.

In a written reply to Ibrahim Mustafa (BN-Sungai Petani) he said the first method was to hold face-to-face discussions and dialogues with the leaders and followers of deviationist groups.

"The second method is to provide counselling and guidance, while the third is to hold awareness courses for Muslims and also rehabilitation courses for deviants.

"In short, the Government intends to carry out rehabilitation for all those influenced by deviationists including using other suitable methods," he said.

Ibrahim had asked the

Prime Minister to state the total number of deviationist teaching groups identified in the country.

He asked for the total number of groups which were still active and the places where their activities were concentrated.

He also wanted to know the efforts carried out to persuade the followers of such deviationist groups to return to the right path and whether the Government intended to make it mandatory for the followers of those groups to be rehabilitated at counselling and rehabilitation centres.

Dr Mahathir said a total of 49 groups were involved in deviationist teachings in the country.

He said of the total, 13 were active but only one deviationist group was involved nationwide and that spread the *aurad Muhammadiyah* teachings or better known as Al Arqam.

He said 12 other groups were active at the State level only.

The other deviationist groups are:

- Ajaran Tarekat Mufaridiah in Selangor and Kelantan;

- Ajaran Taslim in Penang, Johor and Negri Sembilan;

- Ajaran Mariam Shahabudin in Perak;

- Ajaran Tok Ayah Sulaiman in Kelantan;

- Ajaran Ilmu Tajalli Ahmad Laksamana in Kelantan;

- Ajaran Abu Darsan in Pahang;

- Tarekat Mufarridah Sheik Makmon in Selangor;

- Tarekat Naqsyabandiah Kadirun Yahya in Selangor;

- Tarekat Aurad Ismailiah in Kedah;

- Ajaran Hassan Anak Harimau dan Tok Ayah Pin (Ariffin) in Kelantan, Terengganu and Perak;

- Tarekat Samaniah Ibrahim Bonjol in Selangor; and,

- Ajaran Nordin Puteh in Selangor and the Federal Territory.

Dr Mahathir said the States with the most deviationist teaching groups were Selangor and Kelantan.