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Hamid-Shiite

JOINT ACTION TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS POSED BY SPREAD OF SHIITE

KUALA LUMPUR, May 25 (Bernama) -- The Islamic Affairs Department of the Prime Minister's Department (JPM) will cooperate with the Education Department to investigate and act against the spread in teachings of Shiite especially in institutions of higher learning (IPT) in the country, Minister in the JPM, Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman, said today.

The focus would be on lecturers and students by meeting and discussing with them, he told reporters after launching the Federal Territory level celebrations to mark Maal Hijrah 1417 at Pusat Islam here.

He was commenting on a newspaper report quoting Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as warning IPT staff to stop their activities of spreading Shiite teachings among Muslims in the country and specifically students.

Dr Abdul Hamid said spreading of Shiite teachings was contrary to the country's laws as constitutions of states in the country defined that Islam was the Ahli Sunnah Wal Jemaah sect.

He said follow up action to prevent the activities was in progress.

The government however had no plans to do away with the study of Shiite in universities just like the study on the communist and socialist ideologies.

They were only for academic purpose and not to be practised, he said.

On the statement of Deputy Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday who reminded parents not to expect others to teach and instill noble values in their children, he said it was in keeping with Islamic teachings.

In his speech, Dr Abdul Hamid said Muslims should acquire skills so that they would not need to depend on others. -- BERNAMA

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