

31 MAR 1996

Deviationist

LEADER OF DEVIATIONIST TEACHING TO BE CHARGED TOMORROW

KUALA LUMPUR, March 31 (Bernama) -- A man who is believed to have spread deviationist teachings and seven of his followers who were detained by officers of the Selangor Religious Department (JAIS) last night will be charged at the East Gombak Syariah Court in Taman Keramat tomorrow.

JAIS Enforcement Chief, Nasir Mohd Zakaria said today the man, Mohd Nordin Puteh, 56, who claimed to be Imam Mahadi was detained at a house in Lembah Keramat during a raid at about 9.30 pm.

He said, during the raid by five JAIS officials on a house at No 30, Jalan AU5D/5, Lembah Keramat, Nordin was in the house with seven followers including his second wife.

Nordin and his followers are being detained at the Taman Melawati police station prior to being charged in court tomorrow.

Nasir said that during interrogation, Nordin claimed to have 40 marks on his body, including the hair on his back which were said to be proof that he was Imam Mahadi.

He said during the raid JAIS officials confiscated beads, religious books, video tapes on Imam Mahadi and photostat copies of documents about himself which he claimed to have sent to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and several local religious leaders.

Nasir said JAIS believed the deviationist teachings were preached by Nordin for the past five years and the operation to track him began two years ago.

He said Nordin's teachings had been decided to be deviating by the Selangor Islamic Religious Council on August 26 last year and was gazetted as deviationist on September 28 the same year.

He said Nordin and his followers would face four charges under Section 166, 167, 168 and 171 of the Selangor Islamic Religious Administration Laws 1952 (Amendment 1983). -- BERNAMA

AKT/NAS AO