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Annular-school

PAS SAID TO BE BLOCKING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO A RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

KOTA BAHARU, Jan 6 (Bernama) -- The Kelantan government is said to be blocking RM300,000 assistance from the federal government to a religious school here, a move which could spark another controversy between them.

As a result, Rural Development Minister Datuk Annular Musa could not hand over the assistance to Sekolah Agama Tanjung Pagar, Pasir Puteh, a religious school which is in bad shape.

"I've asked for a report from the Federal Development Department (JPP) on the matter. I'd also like to see the letter said to be sent to the department by certain parties disallowing such financial aid," he told reporters here today.

He said the school was supposed to be the first of several religious schools in the state to receive help from the federal government to upgrade facilities and make the school safer for the students.

"Actually, we're not obliged to help the schools as it comes under the jurisdiction of the state government. The federal government's offer is in the interest of religious education," he added.

He said the matter would be reported to the cabinet and discussed with Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak for appropriate action.

The assistance programme, approved by the cabinet in October last year and received the support of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. It was also agreed that assistance be channelled through JPP.

"We feel sad over the attitude of the state government but we'll not act to stop assistance. I'll write to the state government," he said.

Annular regretted that such a thing could happen, more so when it involved the interest of the school and students.

"We should aside political differences. We should not allow schools to be in bad shape," he said.

He advised the PAS-led state government to adopt an open attitude for the common interest. --BERNAMA