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Government to investigate alleged Shi'ite practice at mosque

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - The Government is to investigate alleged Shi'ite practices at the Masjid Abu Bakar As-Siddiq in Bangsar two days ago, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said today.

He said appropriate action would be taken if the incident was found to have occurred.

Abdul Hamid was referring to a case where a man was spotted placing sand in the mosque before performing Friday prayers.

"These practices of prostrating on sand or stone, done to induce suffering, have no place in Sunni teachings.

"We will certainly investigate the matter and act accordingly," he said after acting as a panellist during a seminar on Happy Families in Solving Social Ills at Pusat Islam today.

Prostrating on stones is a known practice among Shi'ites. Malaysians follow Sunni teachings.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said last year the Government would take "immediate steps" to stop the spread of Shi'ite ideology in Malaysia as it would cause a split among Muslims.

Dr Mahathir said the introduction of new teachings and interpretations of the Quran could create enmity among Muslims in Malaysia, as they had in some other countries.

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