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Ulama-Conference

ISLAMIC SCHOLARS AND MUFTIS TO MEET IN LANGKAWI

LANGKAWI, Aug 18 (Bernama) -- Islamic scholars and muftis will attend a meeting here on Wednesday to be briefed on the actual situation in relation to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent statement on the streamlining of the implementation and enforcement of Syariah Laws.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said they would be briefed on the Prime Minister's view on the matter.

The matter need to be explained as Dr Mahathir's statement did not question the muftis' credibility to decide on Syariah Laws, he told reporters after attending the Kedah Umno convention here today.

He said the meeting was crucial following allegations published by a newspaper aligned to an opposition party on Dr Mahathir's comments which were said to have confused the people.

"It is true as said by the Mufti of Selangor (Datuk Ishak Baharum) that whoever rejects the Syariah Law will deviate from the true teachings of Islam but the same law also say that if there are people who seek ways to debate on its implementation are not appostates," he said.

Dr Hamid said the newspaper had twisted the issue as though Dr Mahathir had rejected the Syariah Laws decided by the Islamic scholars.

He also said the meeting would be the start of the series of meetings between the government and Islamic scholars before the Syariah Law Streamlining Committee meets end of this month.

Dr Hamid said the committee would study the streamlining of the implementation of the Syariah Law in the country.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Dr Hamid, legal experts, Islamic scholars and policymakers would be members of the committee chaired by Dr Mahathir.

He said the committee would prepare a draft to be tabled at the Conference of Rulers which is expected to meet in three months' time.

Dr Hamid said the Attorney-General and state legal advisers were making the necessary preparations.

Dr Mahathir was reported to have voiced his displeasure against the manner in which Selangor Islamic Religious Department officials detained three Muslim girls who participated in a beauty contest recently.

Dr Mahathir was reported to have said that their action was not reflective of the true image of Islam. -- BERNAMA

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