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Isa: Need to correct wrong ideas about rulings

SEREMBAN, Fri. - Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad said today there was a misconception among Muslims that all statements made by mufti are fatwa (rulings).

He said such misconceptions needed to be corrected as a fatwa could not be arbitrarily issued without adhering to set procedures.

"It is true that a mufti is the person entrusted to issue a fatwa but it must be done according to procedure," he said after chairing the State Islamic Council meeting.

In this respect, Mohamad Isa said, a mufti, just like any human being, may not know everything and thus the views of other religious experts were also needed.

He was commenting on the statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday that the Government had no intention of curbing the activities of mufti.

In Negri Sembilan for instance, Mohamad Isa said, before any fatwa was issued, the matter would be discussed by the council's Syariah Committee comprising several religious scholars and experts.

"The decision will then be tabled and discussed during the council meeting for approval and will only be regarded as fatwa after being gazetted,"

He reiterated that the Government had no intention of interfering or usurping the activities of mufti.

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