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MAHATHIR TO HEAD PANEL TO STREAMLINE SYARIAH LAWS

LANGKAWI, Aug 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will head the Syariah Law Streamlining Committee set up by the Rulers' Conference recently.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said the committee would hold its first meeting by end of this month, at the latest.

The committee would comprise Islamic law experts, ulamas and policymakers, he told reporters at the Kedah Umno convention here today.

Dr Hamid said the committee would review all Islamic laws and the powers vested with state Islamic religious departments.

Streamlining of the Islamic laws followed Dr Mahathir's displeasure on the harsh action by the Selangor Religious Department against three Malay beauty contestants for being indecently dressed in public.

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

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