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Revamp of Islamic curriculum sought

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The Cabinet wants the Islamic curriculum in schools to be revamped, to help alleviate the social problems plaguing the country.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said the Education Ministry would be asked to restructure the curriculum, which he said was found to be lacking.

The decision he said, was made at this afternoon's Cabinet Committee meeting on social problems which was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was also present at the meeting.

"Both the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister expressed their worry over the growing number of cases involving Muslim teenagers," Abdul Hamid said after attending a breaking of fast gathering at the Darul Kifayah orphanage in Jalan Ipoh.

"They have instructed Pusat Islam to think of ways to instil firm Islamic values in both children and adults.

"The meeting concluded that the various social ills such as drug addiction, punk culture and bohsia were caused by spiritual weakness in the individual."

Abdul Hamid said the committee found it ironic that although the Malay community was noted for its firm Islamic foundation, most of those affected by these social problems were Muslim children.

This, he pointed out, meant that parents and adults also needed to be re-educated on Islamic values.

Education, he added, should begin at home and is not the sole responsibility of school teachers.

"In school, students are taught knowledge, but it is at home that they pick up good habits and strengthen their foundation on religion."

Abdul Hamid said a survey of school examinations on Islamic studies did not indicate a decline in the passing rate.

"But examinations do not reflect one's commitment."

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