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Mahathir-Islam

RULERS AGREE TO UNIFORM ENFORCEMENT OF SYARIAH LAW

KUALA LUMPUR, July 31 (Bernama) -- The Conference of Rulers today agreed to the standardised enforcement of Syariah Law in all the states of the Federation of Malaysia, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced today.

However the standardised enforcement of the Syariah Law could only be effected after the Conference of Rulers was satisfied with the study undertaken by a select committee.

"We will set up this select committee and the Sultan of Perak will advice on the legal aspect and the outcome of the study will be tabled at the meeting of the Conference of Rulers," Dr Mahathir told reporters after receiving the Prime Minister's Trophy and launching the go-kart INDY 40 Enduro here.

The trophy is for the race which will be held in Langkawi on Aug 30 in conjunction with Malaysia's 40th anniversary of independence.

Dr Mahathir did not discount the possibility of this matter being discussed by the meeting of the Conference of Rulers in the very near future.

The Prime Minister on his return from his two-month working holiday, had said the question of standardised enforcement would be brought up before the Conference of Rulers.

However the Prime Minister said Kedah which was not a member of the Rulers Committee on Islam decided to wait for the outcome of the study before deciding on the matter.

"All agreed except the Sultan of Kedah who said he would agree after he had seen the (report and proposals of the study) as Kedah was not a member of the Rulers Islamic Committee," he said.

Pahang which was also not a member of the committee agreed to the enforcement, he said.

The agreement was reached at the 176th meeting of the Conference of Rulers. It was chaired by the Sultan of Kedah.

At present the enforcement of the Syariah Law differed from state to state and at times created problems. The most controversial was the enforcement in Selangor early this month of the existing Islamic law prohibiting Muslim women from participating in beauty contests.

Dr Mahathir said the agreement would facilitate the implementation of the Islamic law in all the states and any obstacle could be overcome.

The Prime Minister said the Islamic Law would not apply to non-Muslims.

"This law has nothing to do with non-Muslims. This country has non-Muslim communities and we will not impose Islamic Law on them," he said. -- BERNAMA

RAZ MAI AAM