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Rulers Yes in principle to standard Islamic laws

Kamarul Yunus

ALL nine Malay Rulers have agreed in principle to standardise the country's Islamic laws, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says.

The Sultan of Kedah however wants to see the report to be prepared by a proposed study committee before deciding whether the state is agreeable to the recommendations to standardise Syariah laws.

"Yes they agree ... only Kedah says they will agree when they see the recommendations from the study committee," the Prime Minister told reporters after receiving the "Prime Minister's Cup" challenge trophy and launching the Langkawi Indy-40 Enduro go-kart competition in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said the Rulers of Perlis, Kedah, Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan, Johor, Pahang, Terengganu and Kelantan took this stand at their conference in Kuala Lumpur earlier yesterday.

The Federal Government will set up the study committee under the Prime Minister's Department to look into every aspect of Islamic laws, including implementation and enforcement.

On whether the non-Muslims will also be affected, the Prime Minister said the Government is not forcing them to adhere to the Islamic laws.

"It's got nothing to do with the non-Muslims."

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