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Social

SOCIAL ILLS AMONG MUSLIMS AT CRITICAL STAGE- ABDUL HAMID

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 29 (Bernama) -- Social ills among Muslims has reached alarming proportions and all Islamic agencies and departments nationwide will be fully mobilised to arrest the problem, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said today.

He said for a start, Islamic religious officers from Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Selangor and Federal Territory would hold a special meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at Pusat Islam, on Wednesday to discuss the issue.

"This social disease now affecting Muslims is frightening", he told reporters after handing over cash and hampers to 530 patients at Kuala Lumpur Hospital here.

Dr Abdul Hamid said this when commenting on the recent statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that menteri besar and chief ministers must be firm in their crackdown against centres which encourage vice activities among the youth.

He said the ministry would create awareness not only among the younger generation but also among adults including mothers through weekly kuthbah and special talks with the cooperation of the Social Welfare Department.

Dr Abdul Hamid said the federal and state governments would strive all-out to overcome the social plague which was prominent at entertainment centres where the youths wasted their money and time till past midnight.

The local councils which approved licences to these centres must ensure the regulations were strictly adhered to. Issuing of such licences should also be reduced, he said.

Currently, more than 200,000 youths were involved in drug abuse and most were Muslims who could not be relied upon to bring about development to the country. -- BERNAMA

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