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Hamid-Laws

STREAMLINING ISLAMIC LAWS NOT USURPING STATE POWERS, SAYS DR HAMID

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- Streamlining implementation of the country's Islamic laws does not usurp or curtail the powers of the states on religious matters.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said the streamlining emphasised more on standard procedures and penalties to be meted out by the states.

The Syariah Law Streamlining Committee, set up by the Rulers' Conference, was working to enact a uniform law with regards to procedures and penalties to be adopted by all states, he told reporters after opening a workshop organised by the Federal Territory Islamic Religious Council here today.

The proposals were expected to be tabled at the Rulers' Conference early next year for consideration and decision.

This morning Dr Hamid had an audience with the Sultan of Perak, Raja Azlan Shah, on the progress of the streamlining exercise. Raja Azlan Shah is the legal adviser for the task.

The streamlining committee headed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad comprise legal experts, religious scholars and policymakers.

Dr Hamid said the streamlining was crucial as there were differences in the way states handled religious issues and sometimes inflict injustice to the affected parties.

He said Muslims were free to move to any state in the country but sometimes problems crop up when action cannot be taken against the affected parties as the Islamic laws of that state were not binding on them as they were from another state.

Dr Hamid, who earlier opened the management and administration workshop of "Dar Assaadah" -- a home for protection and rehabilitation of Muslim women in Federal Territory -- said the Islamic Community Protection Complex being built here would also house old folks without beneficiaries and "Dar Assaadah" inmates.

Since its inception in 1989, "Dar Assaadah" had rehabilitated 226 Muslim women. During the period, the inmates gave birth to 112 babies which were given out for adoption.

The one-day workshop, which was also attended by sociologists, was to enhance the management and administration of "Dar Assaadah" when it moves to the new complex which could accommodate 600 to 800 inmates at any one time. -- BERNAMA

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