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Umno Youth to discuss uniform Syariah law

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Umno Youth will meet to discuss ways to standardise the administration and implementation of Syariah law and come up with a resolution on the matter.

The meeting on Thursday will be attended by its executive committee, information and religious affairs bureaus' members and seven experts in Islamic laws.

Umno Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the meeting was to find a solution to what he called a "misunderstanding between religious officials and the Government in matters relating to Islamic law".

"Umno Youth felt that we should take the responsibility to throw our support behind the Government in the issue," he told reporters after chairing an Umno Youth executive committee meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre today.

Ways of implementation of the Syariah law will be discussed and all inputs will be noted, said Ahmad Zahid.

Recently, an article in a tabloid had accused Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad of being an apostate for criticising the way some religious departments handled Syariah law.

The Prime Minister had particularly referred to the Selangor Religious Department for the manner in which it arrested three Muslim beauty contestants for going against a fatwa that forbade Muslim women from taking part in such contests.

Dr Mahathir also called for the standardisation of Syariah law, saying the varying forms of implementation in the States could cause confusion in the minds of the people.

As such, the Government had sought the Rulers' Conference's agreement to standardise the law and a study will be conducted by a committee under the Prime Minister's Department on the matter.

Ahmad Zahid said it was high time Syariah law be standardised at the Federal level and be uniformly implemented throughout the country.

"We will come up with a resolution by the end of the meeting," he added.

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