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Hamid-Hatred

RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS THAT INCITE HATRED MAY BE CLOSED DOWN

KUALA LUMPUR, May 17 (Bernama) -- The government will discuss with state religious and education departments on the possibility of closing down religious schools and kindergartens that ask pupils to step on pictures of national leaders.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said this practice, detected eight years ago, was still continuing because the government had all this while been soft on the matter.

"Our approach had been to advise them. We hold meetings with the administrators of the kindergartens and schools concerned and tell them to discontinue with the practice," he told reporters when asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent statement on the matter.

Dr Abdul Hamid earlier presented zakat aid of RM2.26 million to Institut Profesional Baitulmal (IPB) and to flood and fire victims in the federal capital.

The minister said he had also received information that some kindergartens and schools distributed the pictures of national leaders for children to throw stones and pierce holes on them.

"We have also detected cases of kindergarten and school administrators, who after being summoned and given advise, switch to organising ceramahs to incite hatred against national leaders," he added.

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