

29/05/2000

Good character a priority for picking religious officers

RAUB, Sun. - The Pahang Government plans to give priority to candidates with good character when recruiting State Islamic Religious Affairs Department officers in future.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob said the current practice of selecting candidates based on their academic qualification might have to be reviewed.

"Maybe we should change the method of selecting a religious officer," he told reporters after opening the International AIDS Memorial Day 2000 commemoration event here today.

Also present were Deputy Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Ng Yen Yen, who is also the Member of Parliament for Raub, and Malaysian AIDS Foundation president Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir.

Adnan was asked to comment on the increasing number of cases of corruption where sex was sought as gratification, with the latest case involving three officers from the Negri Sembilan Islamic Religious Affairs Department.

In the incident, three religious officers sought sexual favours from a woman, who was caught for khalwat, to escape action to be taken against her.

The incident was revealed by the Anti-Corruption Agency director-general Datuk Ahmad Zaki Husin and was reported in the front page of the New Sunday Times today.

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