

Need to review laws on kindergartens

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PETALING JAYA, Mon: The government will review laws pertaining to the setting up of kindergartens as some parties used such centres to teach children to hate the government.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today some kindergartens such as Pasti and Taski, which claimed to teach religious knowledge, are actually teaching the children to hate the government.

"They even teach the children to call people by the name Mahazalim and Mahafiraun," he said after opening the first Puteri Umno community centre near Sri Manja flats, Old Klang Road here. "When they claim to teach religious knowledge, parents and even Umno people will send their children to such child centres."

But actually they do not teach religious values. Instead, they inculcate hatred for the government, he said.

"When we teach something to children, they will remember it until adulthood," Mahathir said, citing as an example how Malay parents teach their children that pigs are unhygienic, and even in adulthood, they feel disgusted when they see the animal.

Asked whether the government will close down such centres, he said: "There is nothing to stop them as there are no laws that control religious childcare centres.

"If we discover that they are teaching something else instead of religious knowledge, then we will have to close them down."

Mahathir said there is a need to formulate new legislation or amend existing laws to control such practices.

Earlier, in his speech, he said that children educated in such centres will grow up hating the government and certain individuals for no reason.

"They don't even know why they hate the government and the leaders. What they know is they are taught to hate," he said.

Mahathir also advised parents to be careful and be sure that the childcare centres their children go to provide useful knowledge and are not spreading political beliefs.