

# Qualified teachers may be absorbed

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KUALA LUMPUR: Qualified teachers from religious schools may be absorbed into national schools under the proposed review of a national school system, Deputy Education Minister Datuk Abdul Aziz Shamsuddin said.

However, he was not able to disclose the number of religious teachers who might be absorbed.

"We are monitoring the religious schools now as many parents are sending their children to these schools," he told reporters after attending Puteri Umno Hari Raya open house at Putra World Trade Centre here yesterday.

At the function, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad present-

ed local singer Siti Nurhaliza with the Anugerah Puteri Remaja for her contribution to the country's culture and arts industry.

Abdul Aziz said there were more than 300 religious schools with at least 12,000 schoolchildren nationwide.

"We fear if we do not bring these children into the mainstream schools, they will lag behind," he said.

On the proposed review of the education system, Abdul Aziz said Dr Mahathir had identified certain people including academicians and religious experts to carry out the study.

He said the study was expected to be completed within eight months.