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Adopt decrees issued by fatwa council, States urged

TAIPING, Sat. - Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim today called on all States to adopt religious decrees issued by the National Fatwa Council.

Rais said as the council was the national body for the administration of syariah laws, whatever had been decided by it should be adopted by the States.

At present, Islamic laws are under the purview of the States.

Rais said there should be uniformity in the syariah laws for better administration of justice.

"When the National Fatwa Council makes a decision, it should be implemented in all States.

"In each State, there is a mechanism which allows for such implementation, but most States refuse to do so," he said after a meet-the-people session at Wisma Tenaga Nasional Berhad.

He said the proposal to standardise Islamic laws did not mean the Government wanted to take over the administration of syariah laws in the States.

"From the point of view of jurisprudence, there should be uniformity in laws. Without uniformity, the administration of justice is not complete."

Rais said as the matter needed the co-operation of Rulers of each State, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would forward the proposal to standardise the syariah laws at the next Conference of Rulers.

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