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Syed Razak-SAR

SYED RAZAK SUGGESTS UNDERTAKING LETTER FOR RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

SUNGAI PETANI, Oct 26 (Bernama) -- The state government plans to make it compulsory for Sekolah Agama Rakyat (SAR) in Kedah to sign the letter of undertaking before resuming subsidies.

Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain said the move was aimed at preventing the schools from being used by certain groups for political purposes.

"Before the government gives assistance, make sure that every Sekolah Agama Rakyat signs the letter of undertaking. Those refusing to sign (the pledge) are not eligible while those signing the pledge but later indulge in political activities, the assistance should be withdrawn immediately," he said.

Syed Razak said this at a media conference after launching the state-level Senior Citizens Day at Rumah Kenangan Bedong, near here today.

The Menteri Besar said this when asked to comment on the announcement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday that government subsidy to SAR had been stopped temporarily.

Dr Mahathir had said that the move was taken because the government found that there were religious schools which had been abused for political purposes.

Syed Razak said there were 45 religious schools in Kedah with 20,000 students and the federal government allocated RM4 million to these schools annually.

He said monitoring by the state government revealed there were schools influencing students to hate government and national leaders.

"It's not nice for schools receiving government aid but instigated the students against the government. I hope the move to temporarily stop the assistance can create awareness among administrators of the schools which have deviated," he added.

-- BERNAMA

MZM AO