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PAS-Memorandum

SAR: PAS PLANS TO SUBMIT MEMORANDUM TO ALL SULTANS

ALOR STAR, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- The PAS Youth wing plans to submit a memorandum to all Sultans concerning the move by the government to stop financial assistance to the sekolah agama rakyat (SAR).

Head of the PAS national Youth wing, Mahfuz Omar said the memorandum aimed to explain the implications that would arise should the per capita grant be stopped, to refute all the adverse allegations against SAR and to appeal to the Sultans to do something to save the schools.

He said the meeting would be held after the Hari Raya Puasa and he himself would lead the delegation that would meet with the Sultans.

"PAS Youth hopes that the Sultans would accept the memorandum as an effort to save SAR from being closed down," he said at a media conference, here today.

Mahfuz said that as head of the Islamic religion in their respective states, the Sultans could do something to ensure that SAR would continue to receive assistance.

After the Umno Supreme Council meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Friday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was reported to have said that the government had decided to stop giving assistance to SAR.

Mahfuz also defended the SAR and refuted allegations by certain groups that such schools were spreading deviationist teachings.

Commenting on the Health Ministry's proposal to create private wards at government hospitals, he said PAS Youth objected the move as it would bring about negative effects to the lower-income group.

"The ministry should review the proposal as it would bring adverse effects to the people especially the poor who would not be able to afford expert services," he said.

Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng was recently reported as saying that the proposal to create private wards in government hospitals aimed to attract more medical experts to serve with the government.

--BERNAMA

FIZ+IAW/MZM AO