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Memorandum on illegitimate children

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PUTRAJAYA, Wed. - The Cabinet has directed the Women and Family Development Ministry to come up with a memorandum on the problems of illegitimate children.

Minister Datuk Shahrizat Jalil said today the Cabinet would make the "appropriate decisions" after the memorandum was completed and its findings discussed.

"The ministry will soon invite relevant ministries, non-governmental organisations and religious authorities such as Jakim (the Islamic Development Department) to submit a memorandum on the matter.

"My ministry will study the memoranda and listen to their views before the findings are tabled in the Cabinet," she said after witnessing the welcoming of cyclist Hasan Nawawi Abdul Rahman by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's Department.

"The matter must be viewed not only from the perspective of parents of these illegitimate children but also on how to protect the children. We have to look at solutions which will give the children the dignity they deserve."

The plight of illegitimate children was highlighted following a proposal by PPP Youth chief T. Murugiah that non-Muslim men be allowed to take at least two wives.

Murugiah said his intention was only to get the Government to recognise the plight of illegitimate babies and unwed mothers.
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