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Mosques receive new ruling

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Government has called on all mosques not to hold tazkirah (religious lecture) in between terawih prayers during the fasting month.

This is to avoid interruptions when performing the prayers.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin said the Malaysian Islamic Advancement Department would also be asked to co-operate with all religious departments to ensure that mosques complied with the rule. He said the rule was made to prevent certain quarters from misusing the tazkirah to slander the Government.

"Tazkirah could lead to various problems that might distract congregations," he said after closing the Ijtimak Imam-imam dan Ahli Jawatankuasa Masjid Wilayah Persekutuan last night.

Abdul Hamid was commenting on the possibility of the tazkirah being abused in between terawih prayers during the fasting month.

Later, at the same function, he handed over 1,000 copies of the Quran to the participants.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had recently said that the Government would take stern action against any party trying to abuse the tazkirah in between terawih prayers during the fasting month.

Dr Mahathir also said that such act would not only distract the congregation but also tarnish the terawih prayers.