

15 JAN 2002

Hamid-Conference

MUFTI INSTITUTION TO BE STREAMLINED, SAYS HAMID

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 15 (Bernama) -- A revamp of the mufti institution will be made in efforts to address issues of deviationist teachings and other threats, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Hamid Zainal Abidin said here today.

He said this was among the decisions arrived at during the 42nd Conference of the National Council for Islamic Religious Affairs held here today. The two-hour conference was chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. All the menteri besar and chief ministers were present except for Kelantan, Terengganu, Penang, Sabah and Sarawak.

Abdul Hamid said the conference also discussed reviewing the role of religious speakers and religious schools in view of an increasing number of unauthorised religious speakers who were sowing the seeds of hatred and spreading deviationist teachings.

He said the conference also agreed to review the role of religious schools that had deviated from their original objectives.

"We want to ensure that these schools fulfil their objectives which are to provide religious instruction and are not to be used to disseminate deviationist teachings", he added.

-- BERNAMA

RBZ MFJ ANA/AO