

20 APR 2002

Rais-Incest

WHIPPING IN PUBLIC FOR INCEST OFFENDERS NOT FINALISED, SAYS DR RAIS

KUALA KLawang, April 20 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's proposal for incest offenders to be whipped in public has not been finalised, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said.

He said the Law Coordination Committee headed by him had taken note of the Prime Minister's proposal and would give due consideration to it.

He stressed that the committee would take into account all opinions and suggestions expressed by the public and incorporate them into the law being drawn up to curb incestuous acts.

Proposed amendments to the law governing incest would be tabled to the Cabinet soon, he told reporters here last night.

Dr Rais was asked to comment on a statement by Dr Mahathir that stiffer penalties should be imposed against incest offenders as it was a heinous crime.

Dr Mahathir had said that "if I have my way, the perpetrator should be whipped in public to make him regret his actions."

He said whipping in public had not been implemented in Malaysia and as such, the government must make a decision before it is made into law by proposing amendments to be tabled in the Dewan Rakyat.

Earlier, Dr Rais and his wife Datin Seri Masnah Muhamat witnessed an arts performance by 26 students from the Literature and Arts Faculty of University Negeri Padang from West Sumatera, Indonesia at the Jelebu District Council.

Also present were the Jelebu chieftain Datuk Mendika Menteri Akhirulzaman Datuk Musa Wahab and wife Tok Puan Manoriah Ahmad.

The university delegation was led by Prof Atar Semi.

-- BERNAMA

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