

Mahathir: Gazette Islamic family law

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PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants state governments to gazette the Islamic Family Law as soon as possible to resolve the allegations of non-uniformity in Islamic laws, including those pertaining to polygamy.

The prime minister said the question of uniformity does not arise because it had been resolved and the laws accepted by the Rulers' Council.

"Thus, what needs to be

done is only to gazette the law, and the same law will be applied in all states in the peninsula as well as Sabah and Sarawak," he said after chairing a meeting to resolve the controversy pertaining to polygamy and Islamic Family Law yesterday.

The controversy over polygamy arose when Perlis was reported to have proposed facilitating men to practise polygamy, including relaxing conditions such as

doing away with the requirement to have approval from the first wife.

Mahathir said what the Perlis government had meant was misunderstood by the press, reports Bernama.

"The Perlis government was merely following the teachings of Islam ... polygamy is allowed but not encouraged."

Mahathir said religious authorities received the three volumes of the law only three

months ago and need some time to scrutinise them before handing them to the state government to gazette.

He said polygamy must be practised according to the requirements of Islam by taking into consideration factors such as financial capability, fairness as well as the status of the prospective bride.

To a question, he said the government wants to ensure divorce cases are resolved within a certain time frame.