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Abdul Hamid-Competition

BAN 'BRUCE ALMIGHTY', SAYS ABDUL HAMID

KUALA LUMPUR, July 28 (Bernama) -- Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin regrets that a private English radio station is airing a contest that is contrary to Islam.

The contest - in the form of the question 'If you could be a God, what would you do?' - strayed from Islamic convictions as it equated man with God, he said.

"Although the question is hypothetical it cannot be trivialised as we cannot equate ourself with God almighty even as a joke," he added.

He spoke to reporters after a ceremony to present the specially chosen dais designs for the 45th International Al-Quran Recital competition here.

"If the film contest is still being held, I ask that it be stopped immediately," he said commenting on the screening of the 'Bruce Almighty' in local cinemas.

"I hope Muslims will not participate in such contests in the future as it is haram," he said urging radio and television stations to be more in tune with religious sensitivities in the country.

Abdul Hamid said the Film Censorship Board should refer to the Islamic Affairs Department over the film in which a man is given the power to be God for a week.

"It's not appropriate to show the film in this country. I don't know how far the Film Censorship Board has taken action," he said.

Meanwhile, Abdul Hamid and judges at the design competition picked out five designs to be chosen by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as the dais for the Quran reading competition this year.

Commenting on the participation in the design competition, he said the architecture students were progressing well and although they were still learning the talent was clearly evident.

Students from various local architecture schools and architects from the Public Works Department took part in the design competition.

The international Quran reading competition would be held here in December this year.

-- BERNAMA

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