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Education-Islamic

MOST STATES HAPPY TO ADOPT JOHOR'S ISLAMIC EDUCATION SYSTEM

KUCHING, June 5 (Bernama) -- Although it is ultimately up to the Federal Government on whether to adopt Johor's Islamic Education System into the national education framework, most states have given the thumbs-up to the idea.

The latest to join the list is Sarawak, which said it was studying the system and would adopt it if it was applicable in the state.

Johor's Islamic education system has produced competent citizens with strict religious adherence and high morals, Sarawak Agriculture and Food Industry Minister Datuk Seri Adenan Satem said today.

"If suitable, we will implement it in Sarawak," Adenan, who attended a briefing on Johor's Islamic Education System, on behalf of Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, told reporters today.

Johor's Islamic education system is systematic in all aspects - management, curriculum, examination and opportunity to pursue Islamic studies, he said.

The present Islamic education in Sarawak was insufficient and had several flaws, he said, adding that the state government was planning to strengthen its religious education to produce individuals who followed true Islamic teachings.

Also present at the briefing was Menteri Besar Johor Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman who said all states, except two or three, had heard his briefings and has reacted positively to the idea.

The briefings were made following Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's suggestion last year to standardise the mainstream religious education by adopting Johor's Islamic education system.

Under the Johor Islamic education system, Islamic classes are held separately in the evening, after school was over.

Among principles emphasised in the system were the teaching of basic Islamic tenets, as well as the deeper understanding of the Holy Quran, Abdul Ghani said, adding that compared with an average of 400 minutes of Islamic studies per week in national schools, students in Johor received 900 minutes in the same period.

There are about 245,000 students at 500 schools with 5,000 teachers involved in this system, he said.

The Johor government has made it compulsory for every Muslim in the state to attend Islamic classes for 11 years, from Standard One to Form Five.

--BERNAMA

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