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Umno-Debate (Education/Religion)

T'GANU UMNO CALLS FOR CREATION OF FEDERAL MUFTI POST

KUALA LUMPUR, June 21 (Bernama) -- The Terengganu Umno has urged the government to create a federal mufti post in efforts to standardise issuance of fatwa in the country.

Its delegate, Datuk Awang Jabar, said the existence of such a post would pave the way for a more methodical and organised manner in the issuance of any fatwa.

"At the momemnt, the fatwa is decided and issued by the National Fatwa Council but this is not adhered to by all states. There are various conflicts in the fatwa issued by state religious authorities, hence we must make it uniform."

Awang said this when debating the motion on education/religion at the 54th Umno general assembly in the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here today.

The motion was tabled by Umno Johor delegate Datuk Gapar Gurrohu.

Awang also called for the federal and state governments to arrive at a compromise in implementing Islamic family laws.

Awang said at present the Islamic family laws were under the jurisdiction of state governments and this compromise would allow the federal government to standardise the Muslim family regulations.

Meanwhile Wanita Umno delegate Fatimah Abdullah urged the Education Ministry to include Arabic as one of the subjects in schools.

"This is appropriate as Arabic is the Quranic language and suitable as our country is an Islamic nation," she said.

Fatimah called on the ministry to set up religious schools which used Arabic as the medium of instruction.

These schools could also be utilised as preparatory centres if their students were to pursue further education in the Arabic nations, she said.

Federal Territory delegate Ismaliza Ismail proposed for each of the Umno division to build an initiative to assist Malays to master the English language.

This would also push the Malays to be on par with the other races in terms of progress, said Ismaliza.

Ismaliza also urged for education on family values be expanded nationwide in efforts to stop moral deterioration among youngsters.

Pahang Umno delegate Ahmad Munawar Abdul Jalil said the recognition accorded by Al-Azhar University on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad showed that Malaysia was a nation capable of leading other Islamic countries.

"Al-Azhar University acknowledged Dr Mahathir's contributions in developing the nation and Islam, however there a few who do not (wish to) admit that Malaysia is an Islamic country," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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