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Afternoon religious class for Negri primary schools

SEREMBAN, Wed. - First Johor, now Negri Sembilan.

All national primary schools in the State will soon hold afternoon religious classes for students, a practice which began in Johor schools decades ago.

The syllabus, to give children an overall well-rounded education, will be streamlined by the state education department and will also take into consideration that being used by schools in Johor.

The idea of these classes was initiated by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad who headed a top-level committee on education reform.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan said the classes would initially be for students in Standards One to Three next year, and will be held after school hours from 2.45pm to 4.30pm.

Speaking after chairing the state executive council meeting at Wisma Negri today, Mohamad said the classes will involve 33,000 students in the state, and a total of 839 classrooms.

Parents will be required to pay RM5 each month for the classes, which will be held four times a week, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

"The programme is in line with the J-Qaf programme by the Education Ministry and will address the need for more religious lessons for children."

At present, he added, there were only few teaching periods a week for the subject and these extra classes would allow students to gain knowledge in all aspects of the religion.

Besides the existing religious teachers in the primary schools, additional religious teachers from secondary and religious schools will also be engaged for the classes.

Mohamad said emphasis would be given to teachers with formal education training, but teachers with experience from religious schools will also be considered.

They will receive an allowance of RM400 per month.

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