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PM to convene meeting on syariah law

PENANG, Mon. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will hold a meeting soon with religious councils and relevant parties to discuss the standardisation of syariah law in the States, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin today.

He said even though efforts had been made to standardise syariah law and the Islamic Family Enactment, problems still occurred.

He said the meeting would discuss technical problems that arose even though the Conference of Rulers had consented to the standardisation of syariah law.

"We are serious about standardising syariah law and that's the reason why we introduced the e-syariah to enable syariah courts to be linked," he said after meeting 470 haj pilgrims at the Bayan Lepas International Airport.

In Kuala Lumpur, Umno Youth expressed hope the Malay Rulers Council would look into streamlining Islamic family law to ensure fairness for all quarters.

Religious secretariat head Shamsul Najmi Shamsudin said it should also include standard procedures for administration of syariah courts in the States.

"We believe a standard procedure will benefit Muslims," he said.

In Kuala Terengganu, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said a uniform syariah law could only be possible if there was a change in government.

He said the Barisan Nasional Government, despite having had 40 years to carry out the changes, had failed to carry out effective measures to standardise syariah law in the States.

"As long as the BN rules, there will never be any changes.

"They must understand that the uniformity of syariah law is not confined to matters such as polygamy and custody of a child," he after the swearing-in of local council presidents at Wisma Darul Iman.