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State directive to find solution to baju kurung issue

MALACCA, Sun. - The school administrators, Parent-Teacher Association and the State Education Department have been told to find an amicable solution to the directive requiring pupils of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Infant Jesus Convent to wear baju kurung every Friday.

State Education Committee chairman Datuk Long Said said he believed the matter could be resolved through discussions.

The school, he said, must have its own reasons for issuing the directive, adding that it might not be made compulsory.

"I do not want to see the issue being exploited by Opposition parties out to get political mileage.

"It is better that all parties, namely the school administrators, the PTA and the department discuss the matter. Through discussions, I am certain any misunderstanding or confusion can be resolved," he said, adding that he had yet to receive any report on the matter.

Many non-Muslim parents have opposed the directive by the school's principal, Datin Rahimah Ghazali, who asked students to wear baju kurung on a trial basis every Friday.

Rahimah had on Thursday told students during orientation that the move was directed towards promoting national unity.

Kota Melaka MP Kerk Kim Hock had asked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the ministry to intervene.