

Zahid: No need to amend law for stateless children issue
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PARLIAMENT There is no need for the government to amend the law to resolve the citizenship status of stateless children, Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said today.

Zahid said this is because the Federal Constitution has stipulated the provisions and conditions with regard to applying for citizenship.

"It is the parents' obligation to refer to their countries of origin if a child is born in Malaysia, to secure travelling documents and identification documents," he added in a parliamentary written reply.

Zahid, who is also home minister, was responding to Ramkarpal Singh (DAP-Bukit Gelugor), who asked the home minister if the government intended to amend the law to allow stateless children to be registered automatically as legal citizens.

It is reported that Malaysia has 150,000 stateless children.

Zahid disagreed with the terminology "stateless children", saying that they are not stateless as the information suggested their parents are foreigners.