

Muslim Parents Must Report To Religious Dept About Conversion Attempts
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KUALA LUMPUR -- Parents must report to the respective State Islamic Religious Department if there are school teachers or tuition teachers who try to spread other religions to Muslim children.

Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said the Islamic religious department in the various states had the power to take action against any group who tried to spread other religions to Muslims in the country.

However, the parents must ascertain the validity of the cases before reporting to the Islamic Religious Department in their respective state, he told reporters after attending a Royal Malaysia Police (RMP) appreciation function at the RMP College in Cheras, here.

He said this when asked to comment on press reports today claiming that a tuition teacher in Jalan Kuchai Lama here had taught his pupils, most of whom were Muslims, to sing songs praising Jesus Christ.

Muhyiddin, who is also the Education Minister, said he was informed that the tuition centre was not in the school compound there but outside the school area.

In this regard, he said, parents of the pupils concerned must investigate to ascertain the real situation and the Education Ministry would monitor the case.

Press reports today also stated that Muslim children studying at the tuition classes which were provided free of charge by non-Malay youths in the area were also taught to sing the songs, 'Yes, I know Jesus loves me' and 'Hari ini Ku Rasa Bahagia' ('Today I Feel Happy'), which praised Jesus Christ while making hand signal to show the crucifix symbol.

In addition, the children were also said to be able to tell stories concerning Jesus Christ including the story how Christ was crucified and it was learnt Christian teachings were subtly absorbed in the lessons taught.

Muhyiddin said: "Such things cannot be done because we have specific laws, (and) enactments."

Meanwhile, on the issue of the resignation of 146 academic staff of the University of Malaya since 2009 allegedly due to their dissatisfaction with the leadership of its Vice-Chancellor, Dr Ghauth Jasmon, Muhyiddin said it was the responsibility of the Higher Education Minister Khaled Nordin to obtain the actual report.

Also present at the function were Home Minister Hishammuddin Tun Hussein and his deputy Abu Seman Yusop, Home Ministry Secretary-General Mahmood Adam and Deputy Inspector-General of Police Khalid Abu Bakar.

(Bernama)