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PM: Resolve custody issues via the courts

CONCERN: A-G will consult affected families, says Najib

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has advised families embroiled in custody battles between Muslim and non-Muslim parents to continue using legal means for solutions to their problems. He said they could appeal to the courts, including referring their cases to the Federal Court.

+ "The government believes that the court will consider giving priority to such cases."

In a statement yesterday, Najib said he had held discussions with Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail and several ministers pertaining to custody battles which had been decided by the civil and Syariah courts.

"This topic has been in the spotlight even though child custody cases are private matters for the

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families. Various quarters have voiced their views on the cases and the government is concerned about the plight of the affected children if the cases are to prolong.

"The Attorney-General will consult with the affected families. I hope everyone will respect the court's decision."

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar came under fire after saying that police would adopt a neutral stand on the guardianship tussle between Muslim convert Izwan Abdullah and his ex-wife, S. Deepa.

In another case, M. Indira Gandhi obtained a Ipoh High Court order early this year to cite her former husband K. Patmanathan for contempt of court after failing to hand over their youngest child, Prasana Diksa, 6. The order was made according to the High Court decision on March 11, 2010.

In April 2009, the Ipoh Syariah High Court gave custody of their three children, Abu Bakar (Karan Dinish), Ummu Salamah (Tevi Darsiny) and Ummu Habibah (Prasana Diksa) to their Muslim convert father.

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