

Government To Implement Several Measures To Address Concerns Of Christian Community
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 4 (Bernama) -- The government will implement several measures to address the concerns of the Malaysian Christian community, relating to the appointment of principals of mission schools, teaching of Bible knowledge as an examination subject and tax-exemption status for Christian organisations.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon in a statement said that these issues were decided by the Cabinet in a meeting Wednesday.

He said these issues were also made known by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak at a luncheon hosted by him at Seri Perdana, Putrajaya for leaders of the Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM).

He said on the appointment of principals of mission schools, the Education Ministry would adhere to the practice of full engagement and consultation with the respective school boards concerned so that the principals appointed would be suitable and acceptable.

"On Bible knowledge as an examination subject for the SPM, it will be taught in schools after school hours, on request by parents. If no suitable teacher is available at the school concerned, then the pastor or priest from a nearby church can be recruited to conduct the class.

"On the tax-exemption status for donations to religious organisations as announced by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in the 2012 Budget speech, a proper procedure will be set up whereby donations to churches recognised and certified by the Christian Federation of Malaysia will be given tax-exemption," he said.

The luncheon which was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and 13 other Cabinet ministers was held in a cordial atmosphere, he said.

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