

Headline	Conversion declaration still being streamlined	Language	English
Date	06 Aug 2010	Page No	A5
MediaTitle	Borneo Post (KK)	Article Size	65 cm²
Section	Home	Color	Black/white
Journalist	N/A	ADValue	374
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PRValue	1,123
Circ / Read	83,120 / 166,173		



Conversion declaration still being streamlined

KUALA LUMPUR: Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom said yesterday that the proposal requiring non-Muslims converting Islam to declare the change in religious status was still being streamlined.

He said although this was something important, it needed to get the consent of the various states first so that there could be uniformity.

"Efforts in this direction are still being pursued. I cannot say how long it will take lest I be accused of lying. The various state Islamic religious councils and religious departments must give their agreement to the matter," he told reporters yesterday.

He said this when asked about the status of the proposal, which was mooted in 2008 by former prime minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The proposal was mooted after there were cases of conversion to Islam but the families were unaware about it.

Meanwhile on another matter, Jamil has urged Muslim clerics to play a bigger role in removing the stigma from AIDS patients.

He said as an influential group, the clerics should join others in helping society to control and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

"AIDS patients are deemed bad from the moral and social aspect. As such, explanation, understanding and religious approach can remove the stigma and discrimination," he said after launching the book 'Manual Islam dan HIV/AIDS' at Pusat Islam. - Bernama