



Jamil (fifth right) posing with Arifin (fifth left), Aziz (fourth left), five panel representatives of Islam, Christian, Hindu, Buddha and Sabah Natives as well as other participants in the event.

Ministry to probe, take measures: Jamil

Hayati Dzulkifli DE 15.9.2017 2

MINISTER in the Prime Minister's Department in charge of religious affairs, Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom, said the Ministry will look into all aspects including safety features in the gutted Tahfiz centre and will find out how the tragedy happened.

"I pray may all the victims be placed in the paradise of Allah SWT and I hope the management of the Tahfiz centres and the victims' families will be strong and patient in facing such tribulation.

"The cause of fire is still being investigated but on our side (ministry), we will look into safety features at the centre as well as others so that we could re-look into what needs to be done and rectified it," he said, after opening a dialogue with five religious representatives from Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and Sabah Natives at Chancellor Hall in Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Thursday.

The programme themed, *Goodwill as the Core for National Unity: Religious Tolerance in Plural Society as the foundation for Harmony* was jointly organised by the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (IKIM) together with Yayasan Pembangunan Ekonomi Islam Malaysia (YaPEIM), UMS and the Department of National Unity and Integration (JPNIN) through the National Blue Ocean Strategy (NBOS).

The dialogue is a concerted effort by the government through the agencies in the Prime Minister's Department to encourage unity and mutual understanding among

Malaysians.

"What happened (in the fire tragedy) was out of the people's management control.

"Nonetheless, the government will look into this incident in overall aspects so that necessary rectification can be done," he said.

On the dialogue, Jamil said Malaysians need to look at the differences in faiths and cultural diversity in Malaysia as a strength that could unite the people and not as a divide tool. "The powerful weapon in developing a nation starts from the context of unity. In fact, it would be a great loss if we do not see that the strong unity that we build as the big asset to the country towards becoming a respected nation by all.

"In fact, economic growth would not expanded if the people continue to fight and loath with each other.

"I have gone through such experiences in Somalia, Timor Leste, Bosnia and Lebanon. Developing physical infrastructures in countries that are in conflict is difficult as contractors could not enter these nations," he said.

To a question, Jamil said the people should be grateful the level of unity via religion aspect is harmonious in the country.

Nonetheless, they should not be complacent as there are still certain irresponsible quarters that touch on sensitive issues to gain own agendas.

Also present were Assistant Minister to the Chief Minister Datuk Mohd Arifin Mohd Arif, Sabah Mufti Datuk Bungsu @ Aziz Jaafar, UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin and other senior officials.