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Mahahtir-PAS

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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 21 (Bernama) -- The government will evaluate the use of the word +Islam+ by political parties in their party name to forestall confusion among the people, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said: +The government will make a thorough assessment on the usage of words, such as Islam, Muslim, among others, by political parties because this can confuse many Muslims in the country.+

Using the word Islam in the name of a political party had led many into thinking that PAS (Parti Islam SeMalaysia) was Islam and Islam was PAS, he said when winding up the debate at the close of the Umno General Assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

The Umno President said this move was not aimed at defeating PAS politically but to prevent Muslims from being confused.

+We can beat them in whatever tactic they employed,+ Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is also the Home Minister, said.

He said the PAS victory in Kelantan in the general election was not because they used Islam but because they were assisted by other factors. -- more

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+They usually lost in the past and they can lose again in future,+ he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahahtir said though he had been asked to explain about religion in a mosque he had not done so because he did not want to use the mosque for political reasons.

+If we don't want others to use the mosque for political objectives, we should do the same,+ he said.

he said there were other forums that could be used by Umno to explain about religion so that Muslims would not be misled by the contentions made by PAS leaders.

+PAS exploited Islam for political ends until many are confused and think that if they board the PAS vehicle, though defective, they will reach paradise,+ he said. -- Bernama

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