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Mahathir-PAS

PAS ONLY LOOKING FOR EXCUSES, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said PAS is only looking for excuses for not wanting to unite with Umno when it imposes a condition requiring Umno to accept Islam as the basis of its struggle.

"It is only an excuse by PAS. Actually, it is the politics of certain people who use religion for their own political interest," he told reporters after chairing the Umno Supreme Council (MT) meeting at Umno Headquarters here, tonight.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno President, said he failed to see the basis of the the condition imposed by PAS since PAS was the one who had on many occasions breached the teachings of Islam such as purposely in causing a split among Muslims.

Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Haji Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat who is also Kelantan PAS Chief, had told reporters at his official residence in Kota Baharu earlier during the day that PAS was willing to unite with Umno on condition Umno accepted Islam as the basis of its struggle.

Dr Mahathir said it surprised him that a small party like PAS would try to impose condition on a big party like Umno "because usually the small party follows the big one."

He said that among PAS' actions which were contrary to Islam was banning marriages between PAS and Umno members in Kelantan.

Dr Mahathir said the truth was that it was Umno which had been championing Islam to the extent that the Islamic world acknowledged Islam practised in Malaysia as that of true Islam.

He said the success of Islamic countries was not because of Kelantan or PAS. "So, it does not want to accept what is accepted by the rest of the world. It is surprising."

"I am sure PAS' struggle is not because of Islam. Go to any Islamic countries, Malaysia is regarded as a model of a true Islamic country," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he was also surprised as to why PAS did not impose such condition when it cooperated with Parti Melayu Semangat 46.

"It also cooperated with the DAP and even the Chinese Consultative Council (CCC). Are these people more Islamic than Umno?" said Dr Mahathir.

-- BERNAMA

ZAB ABG