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Mufti didn't label PM a `murtad'

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Othman today clarified that a mufti had not labelled Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as an apostate.

Abdul Hamid said the article, which appeared in the Monday edition of the Harakah, was misleading as it implied that the Selangor mufti had issued a fatwa saying Dr Mahathir was an apostate.

He said in the article, the mufti had clearly stated that Muslims who refused to accept an Islamic law would become a murtad (apostate) and that this did not apply to those who debated its administration.

Speaking at Pusat Islam, Abdul Hamid said the article was slanted to make such implications and this had caused the Prime Minister to take exception to it.

"The statement made by the mufti is good... that is not the problem... but it was used in the article to confuse people."

Abdul Hamid said those who believed in Islamic laws but were trying to find ways to implement them in accordance with the situation in this country did not imply that they were apostates.

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