

19 APR 1997

Annuar-PAS

PAS HAS NO RIGHT TO DISPUTE UMNO'S POLICY, STRUGGLE

KOTA BAHARU, July 19 (Bernama) -- PAS has failed to understand Umno's struggle for Islam, the Malay race and the country, Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa said today.

Annuar, who is Deputy Kelantan Umno Chief, said Umno was championing nationalism within the context of Islam and not neglecting the religion as claimed by PAS.

He said the Umno Constitution clearly stated that the party championed the Malay race, Islam and the country.

"However PAS is equating Umno's nationalism with Assabiyah which if championed will result in cruelty to others. This is wrong," he said.

In JELI, Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said Nik Aziz's statement that Umno was neglecting Islam in its nationalistic struggle was without basis.

He said Malaysia had received international recognition as an Islamic nation which should be emulated by other nations.

"Hence we are amazed that there are Malaysians who refuse to accept this fact," he said at his Hari Raya Haji open house at Kemahang near here.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is Umno President, had been conferred the highest awards by many Muslim countries such as Saudi Arabia.

He said Umno was not a party which measured its success on symbols and slogans like PAS.

Umno struggled to enhance the position of Islam not only in Malaysia but also at international level.

"It is not surprising therefore that the majority of Malays was supporting Umno's struggle," he said. -- BERNAMA

RAR AAM