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Book that `insults' Islam under scrutiny

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The Home Ministry is scrutinising a book which claimed that Prophet Muhammad was the first president of an Islamic party, its Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

He said the book had been handed over to the ministry's officials and any action to be taken would be decided later. He was speaking to reporters after opening the International Construction Week 2000 and an exhibition.

Yesterday, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the book, Islam Optimis Melangkah Ke Alaf Baru: Mengapa Pilih Parti Islam (Islam Optimistic About Stepping into the New Century: Why Choose an Islamic Party?) had insulted Islam.

The book, written by Ibnu Daulah, contained a message written by Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor and also carries photographs of several Pas leaders.

Besides claiming that the Prophet was the leader of an Islamic party, the book had also declared that other than Pas, all other parties were the "devil's parties" or secular parties.

"Here (in the book), the Prophet Muhammad is declared to be the leader of the first Islamic party, so he is not the Prophet that brings Islam to us but the leader of the first Islamic party.

"So the Prophet Muhammad set up the first Islamic party, not bringing the religion ... this is according to this book."

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