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Mahathir-PAS

PAS EXPLOITING WOMEN TO ADVANCE ITS INTERESTS- DR M

PENANG, June 4 (Bernama) -- PAS should not field woman candidates in the election if it claims to firmly hold to its beliefs and principles, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Its exploitation of women and using them only to campaign for male candidates during elections was against Islam, he said.

The PAS policy on the question of woman candidates was one of deceit and hypocrisy for on the one hand they did not give them the opportunity to stand as candidates but on the other hand used them to fish for votes for men, the Umno President said. The Prime Minister who arrived here yesterday to close the Eighth Malaysian Games (Sukma) was speaking to reporters after inspecting several projects in Penang.

He was earlier asked to comment on the call by the PAS Wanita at its 46th assembly in Kuala Terengganu to the party leadership to consider fielding able woman candidates in the next general election.

From the methods PAS practised one could conclude that it was only serving its own interests and not that of Islam, Dr Mahathir said.

On the MTUC's call for a minimum wage of RM900 for workers, the Prime Minister said the issue over this was the demand for pay rise that would follow and not the question of minimum wage as such.

"We are not talking about minimum wage. What we are saying is the demand for pay rise that will follow. If the pay is raised to RM900, the person previously getting RM900 will not just want the RM900....surely he will ask for more," he said.

News reports today said that the MTUC had agreed on the RM900 minimum wage after considering factors that would constitute a decent minimum wage.

The news report quoted MTUC Secretary-General G.Rajasekaran as saying that a minimum wage was an integral element of the trade union movement's holistic approach towards maintaining the quality of life of the workers.

Asked whether Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik had informed him of his final decision over retirement from the Cabinet, the Prime Minister said, "No."

-- BERNAMA

ZU AAM