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Fadzil-Deviant

PAS OFFERS HELP IN CURBING VIOLENT DEVIANT GROUPS

KUALA LUMPUR, July 11 (Bernama) -- PAS is ready to help the government curb deviant groups that resort to violence in seeking to set up an Islamic state in Malaysia, party president Datuk Fadzil Noor said today.

He said efforts to cripple such groups would only succeed if the government sought everyone's cooperation including PAS.

"If he (Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) wants a proper settlement he should approach the PAS leadership. We are prepared to discuss and give views," he told a press conference at Parliament house.

Commenting on the same matter, the DAP said Barisan Nasional and opposition parties should cooperate to work out a bipartisan national counter strategy to stamp out deviationist religious groups.

DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang said Dr Mahathir should be taking the initiative to invite all political parties to deal with such groups by forming a joint-committee.

In a statement, Lim said the arms heist by the Al-Ma'unah group last week should not be politicised but instead treated as an issue which transcends party politics.

"Political leaders must respond to the issues raised by the Al-Ma'unah arms heist not as Umno, MCA, MIC, PAS, Keadilan or DAP leaders but as leaders representing all Malaysians regardless of race, religion or political affiliation," he said.

Malaysia, he said, should learn from the experiences of religious fanaticisms in other countries, such as the Aum Shinri Kyo cult in Japan and Heaven's Gate doomsday cult in California.

Fadzil, who took over from Lim as the Opposition Leader after last November's general election, said PAS would not exploit the Al-Ma'unah issue for political purpose.

Pointed out that PAS had defended a religious group involved in the 1985 Memali incident, Fadzil said that group unlike the Al-Ma'unah group had not indulged in violence.

"In Memali, they did not use violence. Ibrahim Mahmud's followers did not resort to violence, they just defended themselves," he said.

Stressing that PAS never supported any group that used violence to achieve its aim, Fadzil said members found supporting such groups would face stern action including dismissal.

On the government's move to detain Al-Ma'unah members under the Internal Security Act, Fadzil said PAS had been consistent in its stand against the use of the ISA.

-- BERNAMA

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