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Proposed discussion with Pas `won't be fruitful'

MALACCA, Sun. - Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam today said the party's proposal to hold a muzakarah (discussion) with Pas would be an unfruitful affair.

While agreeing with the need to unite the Malays, Mohd Ali said the present Pas leadership went to extremes in religious matters and even to the point of branding Umno members as kafir (infidels).

He said how could Umno hold such a discussion with Pas, when "we are branded as infidels by them".

"Hence, I feel a muzakarah with Pas under the present leadership is destined to fail.

"Hopefully, discussions to unite the Muslims can be carried out when we see some positive changes in Pas."

Mohd Ali, who is also Malacca Chief Minister and State Umno liaison committee chairman, reiterated there would be more negative implications if Umno were to hold such a discussion with Pas now.

Mohd Ali was responding to reporters who asked him to comment on Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement when winding-up his speech that Umno was willing to attend a muzakarah with Pas to resolve problems regarding Malay unity.

However, the Prime Minister said he doubted Pas' sincerity since the Opposition party had a knack for lying.

On efforts to fully utilise mosques as proposed by Dr Mahathir, Mohd Ali said the State Umno would appoint a mosque supervisor soon to look into all the mosque activities in the State.

Besides this, Mohd Ali said the State Government had in February formed the Dakwah Development Committee in all the State constituencies, which was chaired by the respective Muslim Assemblymen.

The committees are required to look after the affairs of all mosques in their respective constituencies.

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