

# PAS wants to help Umno fight moral decadence

KUALA LUMPUR: PAS is willing to work with Umno to resolve issues of moral decadence among Muslim youths and called on the ruling party to include it in the special government task force to combat the menace.

PAS information chief Azizan Abdul Razak said blaming the opposition party would not "stick" because the *rakyat* were aware that moral decadence was an issue that had to be addressed by the Government.

"PAS does not have the power where this matter is concerned. We tried to organise night religious classes to educate youths and students, but the authority was against the idea," he said here yesterday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri

Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said recently that pro-PAS religious teachers would be given counselling to help them carry out their responsibility to equip Muslim students with Islamic knowledge.

The Umno president said the "devil worship" trend among Muslim youths and students was a result of religious teachers failing to disseminate Islamic values.

Commenting on Dr Mahathir's statement, Azizan said PAS was prepared to be part of any committee to overcome the issue.

PAS leaders were prepared to meet their counterparts in Umno to draft out guidelines to overcome the issue which, Azizan said, had been blown out of proportion.

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