

'PAS using Islamic state issue as bait'

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PM: It's even willing to make empty promises

By **R. Manirajan**

SHAH ALAM, Sat: PAS is using the Islamic state issue as bait to get support from Malays especially devout Muslims, even if it means making promises and offers it cannot fulfil, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"It cannot fulfil anything more than Umno, but if it says that, the Malays will not support the party," Mahathir said to reporters after a working visit to Sirim Bhd here today.

He was commenting on PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor's statement that the party will drop the Islamic state concept from the Alternative Front but will maintain it within the party.

Fadzil had also said the plan for an Islamic state cannot be implemented in a multi-racial society, especially one like Malaysia.

Mahathir said if PAS felt the Islamic state concept cannot be implemented in Malaysia, "why did he (Fadzil) lash out at Umno for not being Islamic enough?"

"We want to know what is the difference between our concept in what we are doing and PAS's".

PAS's ideal of an Islamic state and DAP's desire for a Malaysian Malaysia do not have the backing of other Alternative Front partners.

In a joint statement yesterday, leaders of Parti Keadilan Nasional and PRM said even if the front comes into power, they will not endorse either concepts.