

Abdullah: No need to amend Constitution

STAR 16 OCT 2001

DUNGUN: The Government sees no necessity to amend the Federal Constitution following its assertion that Malaysia is an Islamic country, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday.

The Constitution would remain as it is, as it allows non-Muslims the freedom to practise their religions, he told reporters after chairing a state Umno meeting here.

He also reiterated that the Government had no intention of making a declaration via Parliament that Malaysia was an Islamic country or hold a dialogue on the matter as requested by PAS.

Abdullah said the Government would also not entertain a resolution by the DAP asking the Government to withdraw the so-called declaration.

He said the people already accepted Malaysia's status as an Islamic country as they were

enjoying freedom, peace and development under the Barisan Nasional government.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had briefed Umno religious bureau chairmen nationwide on the issue at a meeting in Kuala Lumpur recently so they could in turn inform grassroots party members and the people.

Abdullah said leaders of Barisan component parties agreed to accept the "Islamic country" assertion at the Barisan supreme council meeting in Kuala Lumpur recently.