

26 NOV 2001

Senate-Islam

GOVT DOESN'T NEED TO MODEL MALAYSIA AFTER ANOTHER ISLAMIC COUNTRY

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 26 (Bernama) -- The government does not need to model Malaysia after another Islamic country when declaring it as an Islamic state, the Dewan Negara was told today.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin said this was because Malaysia was already accepted by the international community as a country whose development agenda was based on the Quran and Hadith.

"Many countries in the world have acknowledged Malaysia as a developed Islamic state and wanted to model their country after Malaysia," he said in reply to Senator Siti Zailah Mohd Yusof during question time.

Siti Zailah, in congratulating the government for declaring Malaysia as an Islamic state, wanted to know the position of Quran and Hadith in establishment of an Islamic state.

Abdul Hamid said all development programmes of the government were based on the Quran and Hadith.

He cited as an example the provision of the best educational facilities for the people since Quran gives importance to knowledge.

The same also applied to social development where the government carried out various programmes to improve the standard of living of the people as Quran encourages the people to lead a good life in this world and hereafter, he said.

Abdul Hamid also said the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had made a public declaration on the matter to make the people realised that Malaysia had been an Islamic state all along.

--BERNAMA

AKT AKT ABG