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Jamaluddin criticises Pas over Islamic state issue

BACKBENCHER chairman and Rompin MP Datuk Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis said Pas does not have any idea of an Islamic state although it has been talking about the subject for years.

He said the party was only outlining the concept now after being challenged by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"All the while, it has been talking about the matter. Actually it has no idea at all of an Islamic state," he said when debating the Budget 2002.

Jamaluddin said Pas was afraid of losing support if the people realised that the party did not have any model of an Islamic state.

"That's why it has now imposed conditions for the submission of a memorandum to the Prime Minister. Fadzil (Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor) wants a three-hour live coverage in Parliament.

"If the party is sincere, no condition should be imposed. But we know that all these are just excuses ... the party has no concept at all."

Liow Tiong Lai (BN-Bentong) highlighted the importance of preserving unity, saying the task should not be left to the National Unity and Social Development Ministry alone. He said sensitive issues that could fan racial and religious tensions must be avoided.

Mastika Junaidah Husin (BN-Arau) said Muslims all over the world had become victims of western perceptions following the Sept 11 attacks in the United States.

She said the western society now divided Muslims into two groups - the liberal and the extremist.

Unfortunately, she said, Muslim women in purdah were regarded as religious extremists and militants.

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