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Keadilan-Malays

KEADILAN TURNS DOWN INVITATION TO DISCUSS MALAY UNITY

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) today turned down Umno's invitation to discuss the issue of Malay Unity.

Keadilan president Datin Seri Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said the party's supreme council, which met today, unanimously decided to reject the invitation because it believed that there had been a shift in the Malay support from Umno to the Barisan Alternatif.

"The main issues today are the confidence crisis facing the national leaders and other big issues like abuse of power, irregularities, corruption, police brutality, poor management of the economy and a judicial system usurped by the executive power," she said in a five-paragraph statement, here.

Wan Azizah said these issues should get the immediate attention of all parties.

She said the supreme council had a comprehensive discussion on the contents of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's letter dated Jan 2 and decided to reject the invitation after taking into account the views and feedback from the grassroots.

Wan Azizah said Keadilan, as a multiracial party, wanted to stress that it always adopted an open attitude to ensure harmony and the well-being of all Malaysians.

The idea for a discussion on Malay unity among Umno, PAS and Keadilan was mooted by Universiti Utara Malaysia Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs) Prof Datuk Dr Ahmad Fawzi Mohamed Basri.

Dr Mahathir, when commenting on Ahmad Fawzi's proposal on Dec 24 last year, said Umno was prepared to study the possibility of holding such a discussion.

Dr Mahathir had also said on New Year's day that Umno's resolution was to concentrate on uniting the Malays to safeguard their interests and not to create animosity with the other races.

PAS, at a special meeting of its central committee last Saturday, agreed to have the discussion but suggested that it be held at the delegation level and not only among the leaders of the three parties as proposed by the Umno Management Committee.

-- BERNAMA

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