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Mahathir-PAS

MAHATHIR RENEWS CALL FOR PAS TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF ISLAMIC STATE

KUALA LUMPUR, July 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reiterated his challenge for PAS to put in writing details of its plan to set up an Islamic state.

He said this would enable the various communities in the country to understand what was PAS' interpretation of an Islamic state.

"They must write it in Chinese, Tamil so that everybody can understand, not just the Malays...so everybody will have a good appreciation of their version of an Islamic state," he said after launching "Proton Juara", national car maker Proton's latest edition, here.

He was responding to queries on recent statements by PAS' leaders over its intention to establish such a state which has been opposed notably by the DAP, one of PAS' partners in the opposition pact.

Dr Mahathir said as far as the government was concerned, Malaysia was already an Islamic state as it was acknowledged by many Islamic countries as a model Islamic nation and that it was a member of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

"An Islamic state is not a state that is exclusively meant for Muslims because other people can live in an Islamic state. And we have to treat them fairly and justly. That is what we do in Malaysia," he said.

On non-Muslims who were worried about PAS' intention, the prime minister said they could not worry about something they did not know.

He said: "Please ask PAS, 'What is your Islamic state?' They've said that Umno is not Islamic because we have the civil courts, we do not have only syariah courts.

"So, please write this down that in the Islamic state envisioned by PAS, there will be no civil court, there will be only syariah court and therefore only syariah laws will be applied in this country. Please say loud and clear about this thing. At the moment, they are saying we will wait until we win, then we will tell you."

Dr Mahathir said PAS should let the people know what it had in store for the whole of the country and not just for Kelantan and Terengganu.

On why the education department was slow to act on suppressing the influence among the schoolchildren and Muslim students of anti-religious belief propagated through Black Metal music, he said:

"Sometimes, we don't see it. The education department is only looking at education, so much so it does not see what the students are doing. This is a social problem more than an education problem."

He said the minister in charge of such matters, National Unity and Social Development Minister Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman had focused on the problem.

Dr Mahathir said the problem occurred could be because the religious education in school was ineffective.

"I don't like to say this, but if the religious teachers are spending too much attention on politics and on instilling hatred against the government and not teaching Islam, these children will be without religious basics," he said.

On the other hand, he said they would have grounding in anti-establishment. "And if we teach the children to be anti-establishment, don't be surprise if they become anti-establishment."

-- BERNAMA
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