

05 APR 2001

Mahathir-Muzakarah

MAHATHIR WELCOMES MUZAKARAH ON "AMANAT ABDUL HADI"

KUALA LUMPUR, April 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today welcomed the proposed muzakarah between the National Fatwa Council chairman Datuk Dr Ismail Ibrahim and PAS deputy president Haji Abdul Hadi Awang over the so-called "Amanat Abdul Hadi" issue and wanted it expedited.

He said it would be better to have a discourse as one evidence of confusion among Muslims was the "amanat" or message of Abdul Hadi.

"The ruling of the Conference of Rulers feels that the amanat is causing confusion among Muslims as to who is Islamic and who is not Islamic," he told reporters at the end of his visit at the Information Ministry here.

He said the question of a proper place did not arise since what was important was to seek the truth.

"I feel the venue is not important. I feel the participation, not as a representative to anyone, only to provide explanation as a Muslim," he said when asked whether the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (IKIM) or the Fatwa Council would act as the platform for the muzakarah.

Commenting on PAS president Datuk Haji Fadzil Noor's statement that Umno should act as observer at the discourse, the prime minister said:

"Never mind, we are not important, if don't want Umno never mind, furthermore if don't want Umno, PAS shouldn't be also, only Hadi alone, speaking not as PAS representative," he said.

--BERNAMA

AFY AHH ABG