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Fadzil-Islam

MALAYSIA SHOULD BE OFFICIALLY PROCLAIMED AS AN ISLAMIC STATE- FADZIL

ALOR SETAR, Sept 30 (Bernama) -- Malaysia should be officially proclaimed in Parliament as an Islamic state, PAS President Datuk Fadzil Noor insisted today.

He said such a proclamation in Parliament was very important to enable all Members of Parliament to take part in the question and answer session or debate on the issue and then the motion accepted by all.

"I ask Dr Mahathir (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, Prime Minister of Malaysia) to make an official statement in Parliament so that it can go through the question and answer process and through the process of debate," he said.

Fadzil was commenting on the declaration made by the Prime Minister when opening the 30th Gerakan Delegates Conference yesterday that Malaysia was an Islamic state in line with the teachings of Islam.

Fadzil said only after the matter had gone through Parliament could it be accepted as official.

Asked whether this meant, PAS still did not recognise Malaysia as an Islamic state, he said this question did not arise.

"The concept of an Islamic state is wide and not just based on the Hudud Law. One of the prerequisites is placing Syariah Law as the supreme source of all the laws of Malaysia. However this is not enshrined in the Constitution as yet," he said.

He said a government could not claim that a particular country was an Islamic state by just building mosques.

"If we see Thailand also has built mosques but it is not an Islamic state," he said.

Fadzil said the concept of the Islamic state must be guided by the holy book and "I believe the Prime Minister is aware of this."

"Moreover in the present situation, the concept of an Islamic state is a subject of dispute not only among ulamas but also among intellectuals. Intellectuals differ in their opinion," he said.

Dr Mahathir had said Malaysia was an Islamic state based on the views of the ulamas of the past, who had explained the concept of the Islamic state.

At a news conference after opening the Gerakan conference yesterday, the Prime Minister had said non-Muslims had the right to consider Malaysia as a secular nation but the government party, Umno, considered Malaysia had satisfied enough conditions to call itself an Islamic country.

-- BERNAMA

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