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Malaysia moderate Islamic nation, says DAP adviser

SEREMBAN, Tues. - The DAP today asked Pas leaders to "wake up from their sleep" in dealing with the party's plan to set up an Islamic state as Malaysia is already recognised by the world as a moderate Islamic nation.

DAP life adviser Dr Chen Man Hin said the DAP agreed with Umno president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that Malaysia was a moderate Islamic country.

"The PM's statement is most welcome and appreciated. This kind of moderation is accepted by the majority of the people.

"The DAP does not understand why Pas still insists on having an Islamic State of its own concept when Malaysia has gained worldwide recognition as an exemplary Islamic country," he said.

"To us (the DAP), Pas has not awakened from its sleep and despite its so-called Islamic party, it is still ignorant of many issues concerning Islam."

Dr Chen also chided Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor over his statements in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday that the concept of an Islamic country advocated by Pas was that the Syariah law must be above everything else.

"Fadzil should understand better that the country has gained endless prosperity and development over the years with the enforcement of many laws. Can he prove that the Syariah law is solely responsible for the country's political, social and economic developments? If so, then provide us with the proof."

He described such statements as unfair, undemocratic and theocratic. He added it was too bad that until today Pas leaders still failed to realise that Malaysia was a multi-racial and democratic country. Saying that Pas would send a memorandum to Dr Mahathir on the issue of an Islamic State, Fadzil claimed that the Barisan Nasional was giving the country a bad name in the Islamic world because it was unclear on many matters concerning Islam.

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