

06/10/2001

No need to amend Federal constitution

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said amendments to the Federal Constitution were not necessary following the declaration of Malaysia as an Islamic State.

He said there was no need for the issue to be debated in Parliament as requested by Pas because the aim of the Opposition party was merely to gain political mileage.

"When Umno declared Malaysia was an Islamic State recently, it did not mean that there would be amendments to the Constitution.

"Malaysia is already an Islamic State and all Barisan Nasional component parties are comfortable with it," he said after chairing the BN Supreme Council meeting today.

He said the Malays, Chinese, Indians and other races have harmoniously lived here under the present Constitution and there had never been any problems.

Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman said the Islamic State issue was discussed in length at today's meeting and the leaders of all 13 component parties supported the declaration of Malaysia as an Islamic State.

However, he said the leaders feared an Islamic State ala Pas because Pas had never explained what it meant by its formation of an Islamic State.

He said they (component parties) questioned DAP which challenged Gerakan and MCA why the two parties did not reject the declaration of Malaysia as an Islamic State by Umno.

"What the component parties really want is for DAP to explain what it would do with the country to make it any different from the present state considering they (DAP) have lived here without any problems for the last 44 years.

"What kind of changes do they (DAP) want, considering the present situation is acceptable even to them. If they have any suggestion on what changes should be done to the constitution, they can come forward and give their views," he said.

On Pas' call for the issue to be debated in Parliament, Dr Mahathir said they merely wanted to show that they did not agree, considering that whatever was done by BN, though positive was never agreeable with Pas.

Pas, he said was a party without any moral authority.

"Moral authority on Islam lies in the hands of the muftis and Kings, but Pas does not adhere to Islamic teachings," he said.