

08 SEP 2001

Abdullah-PAS

PAS CHALLENGE A POLITICAL PLOY, SAYS ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 8 (Bernama) -- PAS's challenge to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to officially announce in Parliament that Malaysia is an Islamic state is just a political ploy, said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The Deputy Prime Minister said PAS resorted to issuing the challenge to avoid from having to respond to an earlier challenge by Dr Mahathir to the party to explain its plan to set up an Islamic state in Malaysia.

"When challenged to state what type of Islamic state they wished to establish, they dare not give a clear response. And now they want to pass the ball to our court so that they can whack us," he told reporters after closing the 14th conference of the Asian Association of Management Organisation in Seri Kembangan near here.

Abdullah was asked to comment on PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor's statement that Dr Mahathir could include a declaration that Malaysia was an Islamic state, in the address the government prepares for the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to deliver at the official opening of Parliament.

Abdullah said the government had developed Malaysia to the extent that Muslims in the country were now regarded as the most progressive by other Muslims.

-- BERNAMA

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