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Pas to submit memo on concept by year-end

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Pas will send a memorandum on the Islamic State concept to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad latest by the end of the year.

Its president Datuk Fadzil Mohd Noor said the memorandum would be submitted as soon as the committee, which he heads, has completed its task.

"We plan to submit it by December and will do so earlier if preparations are completed sooner," he said.

Fadzil said the Islamic State concept which Pas is promoting would be based on the Koran and the Sunnah (traditions of Prophet Mohammad).

Besides allocations on the rights of non-Muslim minorities, the concept gave assurance of freedom of religion and for them to practise their cultures.

"Malaysians, especially the non-Muslims need not fear of not being able to practise their respective religions," he said, adding that the welfare of the people, eradication of poverty, upholding of justice and countering malpractices are areas which will be given emphasis.

Pas set up the committee to draft the memorandum in the wake of repeated calls from Umno leaders for the party to explain its concept of an Islamic State since the Government has said that Malaysia is already an Islamic State.

Meanwhile, DAP deputy chairman Karpal Singh expressed surprise over the statement made by the party's life adviser Dr Chen Man Hin that Malaysia is a moderate Islamic nation.

"Dr Chen's view that Malaysia is a moderate Islamic nation is a personal view and not the view of the DAP," he said in a statement issued here today.

Reiterating the DAP's stand that Malaysia is not an Islamic country or State, Karpal said to the DAP, Malaysia is a secular State.

The DAP's reason for leaving the the Opposition pact, he added, was because Pas insisted on creating an Islamic State in the country.

"Even Pas has accepted the country is not an Islamic State and had announced that it will turn it into an Islamic State if it comes to power," he added.

"Dr Chen is under a complete misconception in conceding Malaysia as a moderate Islamic country ... his views cannot commit the DAP to a stand he has publicly decided to take."

Dr Chen was reported yesterday saying that Malaysia is already recognised by the world as a moderate Islamic nation and that Pas should stop insisting on having an Islamic State of its concept.

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