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PAS ISLAMIC STATE ONLY TO GARNER SUPPORT, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

SHAH ALAM, July 28 (Bernama) -- The Pas ideal of an Islamic state is only a bait to get the Malays who are very religious to support the party's struggles, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Although Pas realised that it may not be possible to implement the concept they still continued to make this promise as they do not want to lose support, he added.

"They are professing this as a bait to garner support from the Malays who are staunch Muslims. So they will make promises (to set up an Islamic state) but they know they will not be able to deliver, they are no better than Umno," he told reporters after a visit to Sirim Bhd here today.

The Prime Minister, who is also Umno President, was commenting on a news report which said Pas would drop the Islamic state concept to remain in the opposition front.

"That's what I want to know, what is the difference between their concept and what we are doing. If it is different, let's see what can be done. If there is no difference then don't accuse us (Umno) of all sorts of things," he said.

The opposition front faced the possibility of a split as the DAP is reported to be ready to sever ties with Pas over the Islamic state issue.

-- BERNAMA

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