

20/12/2001

Pas memo on Islamic State 'almost ready'

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Pas has completed its memorandum on the concept of an Islamic State but has not decided whether or not to submit it to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Its secretary-general Nasharuddin Mat Isa said the party was "in the final stages of polishing it", adding that the party leadership was discussing its next step.

"We have yet to decide what our next step is and will come to a conclusion once we have fine-tuned the details of the memorandum," he said.

A committee chaired by party president Datuk Fadzil Noor, other leaders, professionals and academicians, is responsible for drafting the memorandum, expected to show the difference between the Pas model of an Islamic State and the Islamic State defined by Umno.

The committee was set up in the wake of repeated calls from Umno leaders for Pas to explain its concept of an Islamic State since the Government had said that Malaysia was already an Islamic State.

It is learnt that Pas would only agree to submit the memorandum to Dr Mahathir if it is agreed that it (memorandum) is discussed in Parliament and also made public.

The Pas concept of an Islamic State is believed to be based on the Koran and the traditions of Prophet Mohammad (Sunnah).

"We know there have been all kinds of reports and speculations on the memorandum and some have even termed it as a White Paper.

"Right now, no decision has been made on what our next step is," he said.

On the DAP's possibility of forming a new front with Parti Keadilan Nasional and Parti Rakyat Malaysia, he said the issue has never been discussed at any of their Alternative Front meetings.

"As far as we are concerned, DAP is still an Opposition party ... whether they want to form their own coalition is up to them.

"We (Pas, Keadilan and PRM) have so far worked comfortably together and neither party has given us the slightest indication that they may want to leave," he said.

DAP national chairman Lim Kit Siang had said last week that they were now looking into the possibility of forming a new front with former partners, Keadilan and PRM.

He had said that the party was also prepared to work with other political forces.

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