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PAS-Sincerity

PAS MUST PROVE SINCERITY IN HOLDING DISCUSSION

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 23 (Bernama) -- Yayasan Dakwah Islamiah Malaysia (YADIM) president Datuk Mohd Nakhaie Ahmad said PAS should also prove its sincerity in creating a conducive atmosphere for the meeting with Umno on Malay unity.

He said PAS would not be sincere if it only made demands on Umno to create a conducive environment while the party itself was not doing anything about it.

He said this in a statement in response to the postponement of the meeting on Malay unity by PAS which was scheduled to have been held on Feb 19 on grounds that the atmosphere was not conducive besides putting certain conditions on Umno to create the environment.

Among others, PAS wanted the federal government to revive the petroleum "royalty" to the Terengganu PAS government, which is now channelled through a programme of special payments to the people of Terengganu made through federal government agencies. PAS also demanded that the party's official bulletin, Harakah, be allowed to be published twice a week and that Umno dropped its proposal to the government to prohibit the use of the word "Islam" in the name of any political parties.

Nakhaie, who was a former PAS leader, said it was the responsibility of both parties to create a conducive atmosphere for the proposed meeting.

"Both sides must first of all implement by themselves the conditions that they wanted as part of the terms before making various demands on the other party," he said.

According to him, the sincerity of both sides could only be proven in this manner.

Thus, PAS which wanted a conducive atmosphere as a pre-condition must first of all prove its sincerity by taking the initiative to create the atmosphere, he said.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Umno president, said the party's supreme council wanted the discussion on Malay unity to be a reality and was prepared to discuss anything with PAS as long as the opposition party did not impose conditions beforehand.

However, PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor said that his party was still insisting on its earlier decision to discuss Malay unity only if its three conditions were met.

"It's so unfortunate, the efforts to hold the meeting between Umno and PAS had been made complicated. Various reasons and excuses were given, without caring how important it is for Muslims to be at peace with each other," Nakhaie said.

-- BERNAMA

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