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`Government or KMM'

reports on "Dewan Rakyat" by Ramlan Said; Aion Mohd; Patrick Sennyah
EITHER you support the Government or the Kumpulan Militan Malaysia.

The choice was given to Pas by Datuk Ruhanie Ahmad (BN-Parit Sulong) who said the party should state its stand clearly on the matter instead of making contradictory statements.

Debating the Budget 2002, he said while Pas had stated in the House its opposition to violence and terrorism, it objected when the Government detained several KMM members under the Internal Security Act.

"From today, I hope Pas will stop singing different tunes. The party should state its stand on terrorism, both at the international and domestic levels.

"Its stand on KMM must be made clear - is it for or against the group? What's the use of condemning terrorism at the international level but cry foul when the Government acts against KMM members in the country."

Ruhanie said that Pas' brand of politics had influenced some people in the country to hate the Government and Umno.

"What's more serious is the culture of hatred cultivated by Pas among Muslims that has led to the emergence of KMM which planned to topple the Government through violent means."

On Monday, Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor devoted much of his speech to the Islamic State issue.

This time it was Ruhanie's turn to call on the party to stop politicising religion for political gains.

Although Pas claimed that Malaysia was a secular state, the Parit Sulong MP said he found it strange that one of its MPs had stated the opposite.

Alluding to Pas Kuala Trengganu member Syed Azman Syed Ahmad Nawawi's speech last week when moving a motion on the United States attack against Afghanistan, Ruhanie said Syed Azman admitted that Malaysia was an Islamic State.

"Fadzil should state publicly whether to accept or reject the stand of his MP. If Syed Azman's statement is not denied, then the party is admitting that Malaysia is an Islamic State."

Ruhanie, who took two hours to deliver his speech, said the Opposition was now in bigger trouble with the tabling of a Budget that benefited the whole society.

Presented in the Dewan Rakyat last week by Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, he said the Budget had brought smiles to fishermen, farmers, rural people, civil servants, factory workers, investors and the private sector.

"I am confident the Budget will cause the Opposition, which is already in disarray now, to be bankrupt of issues.

(END)