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Rafidah-Propaganda

STOP PROPAGANDA ON THE SETTING UP OF ISLAMIC STATE, PAS TOLD

BUKIT MERAH, Sept 9 (Bernama) -- Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz today called on PAS leaders to stop their propaganda pertaining to the setting up of an Islamic state as the party is incapable of making any headway even in PAS-ruled Kelantan and Terengganu.

Rafidah said that it was only the party's ploy to win the votes of Muslims and should be stopped, taking into account the multiracial situation in the country.

"What is important is that we are practising what we should to uphold Islamic teachings in our country besides ensuring that our country is recognised internationally as an Islamic country.

"In fact, we have internationally been adopted as a model Islamic country, bringing about progress and development to benefit Both Muslims and non-Muslims in our country," she told reporters after visiting the Bukit Merah Laketown Resort here.

She was commenting on the challenge last Friday by PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to announce formally in parliament that Malaysia is an Islamic country.

Rafidah said that Malaysia has the strong foundation of an Islamic country as the country has succeeded in striving to improve the lot of Muslims.

"If we were to look at other Islamic countries including the Arab states, they never plan to do what PAS intends to do. This is only PAS' ploy to win the votes of Muslims who do not know the true situation," she said.

Rafidah said that PAS actually adopts different tactics when facing Muslims and non-Muslims especially its allies in the opposition pact.

"We know that PAS sings a different tune to the non-Muslims. They know that if the non-Muslims continue to have fears over the concept of an Islamic state, they will not give their support to its partners in the opposition," she said.

Asked to comment on the Sarawak elections, Rafidah hoped that voters especially the Bumiputeras would not be deceived by parties claiming to be from Umno and have the support of Umno.

"Umno is not contesting in the Sarawak elections and not lending its support to any individuals in Sarawak. We only support the Barisan Nasional," she said.

-- BERNAMA

KAY RM