

Fadzil explains his role in forum on Palestine

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AS expected, Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor made a lengthy explanation on the reasons for his participation in the *Syarahan Perdana* on the Palestine issue held at Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka on May 8.

Winding up the debate on the presidential address, he said he went there not in his personal capacity but on Pas platform.

"Everybody can make their own assumption, but I went there not for my own interest but for the interest of the party," he said.

He said when he received the proposal from Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (Abim) and DBP, the organisers of the event, there was little time for him to convene a meeting.

"So in a situation like that when a decision has to be made immediately, party members should give the president the right to decide. I responded promptly to the efforts by Abim and DBP whose sincerity I do not doubt."

However, Fadzil said there was a general stand among the party's po-

litical committee, central working committee and State Commissioners that the party was prepared to face any group, including Umno.

Harakah, the Pas newsletter, in an article in its English section recently, criticised Fadzil for sharing the same platform with Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in addressing the issue on Palestine.

The article said the event was a sham, suggesting that Fadzil should have walked out after delivering his speech. Fadzil said that to walk out of the event was deemed uncouth.

On a lighter note, he said people should not look down on doctors.

"Not all are rough like Dr Mahathir and he too used to be gentle.

"I was one of his (Dr Mahathir's) loyal clients when he operated a clinic in Alor Star.

"I would bring my children to his clinic whenever they had fever. His clinic had a *surau* and he would waive the treatment charges for those who didn't have money," he said.

"But now, he has changed."