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Draw up laws to prevent parties from using religion, says Hasnur

MALACCA delegate Hasnur Hussin proposed that the Government formulate laws to outlaw political parties from using religion to woo for support in a move to consolidate Malay unity.

The Malays, he said, were easily influenced when certain leaders used Quranic verses in their speeches or if these leaders professed to be doing certain things in the name of the religion.

"When Pas leaders use Quranic verses, sometimes Muslims are moved. They feel very awed by such verses and think that whatever the Pas leaders do or say is right.

"They don't know that Pas leaders often use such verses for their own political interests. Sometimes, the holy verses were interpreted according to their whims and fancies," added Hasnur.

Islam, he said, was being used to split the Malays and at present, there was nothing the Government could do to stop these irresponsible leaders from using the religion for their own ends.

To further consolidate Malay unity, he said there was a need for the Government and the ulamak (religious leaders) to have closer co-operation and more dialogues. This, he added, would enhance better understanding among these two parties.

Debating a motion of thanks on the presidential address yesterday, Hasnur said there was no need for Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to apologise for the supposedly poor performance of the Malays, especially in education and economy.

The Government, he said, had undertaken many affirmative programmes like the New Economic Policy and the National Development Policy to help the Malays.

"Before the New Economic Policy was implemented, for every RM1 circulating in the economy, only two sen were owned by the Malays. Now, for every ringgit, 20 sen is owned by the Malays."

He added that all Umno leaders should be held responsible for not being able to help lift the standard of living of the Malays and the blame should not go to Dr Mahathir alone.

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