

01 MAR 2002

DR MAHATHIR PROPOSED AS NATIONAL ULAMA COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

KUALA LUMPUR, March 1 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Islamic Missionary Foundation (Yadim) today proposed that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad be made chairman of the National Ulama Consultative Council (Ulama Council) to be set up by the government.

Yadim deputy president Abdul Manaf Ahmad said this was to enable the head of the government himself to listen to the views of the ulamas and participate in the discussions on the pros and cons of certain issues from the aspects of religion, worldly expertise and politics.

"If this suggestion is implemented, then there will not arise any doubts or allegations that the government is now separating religion from the country's administration," he said in a statement here.

He said members of the Ulama Council should comprise intellectuals and academicians in the various fields such as religion, sociology, agriculture, medicine, science and technology, aerospace and so on.

-- BERNAMA

AKT MAM AO