

10 FEB 2002

Mustapa-PAS

DR M SHAMED ULAMAS AT WEF CLAIM OVERBOARD, SAYS MUSTAPA

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 10 (Bernama) -- Umno information chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed today described as overboard PAS's claim that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad shamed ulamas and the Muslim community in his speech at the World Economic Forum in New York last week.

In reality, he said, the prime minister is advised by ulamas who have no vested interest in the country's administration.

This showed the cordial ties between ulamas and government leaders in Malaysia, he said.

"In any Islamic country, ulamas and government leaders are two important groups of people. In Malaysia, there is good relations between the two groups.

"We have high regard for ulamas. When we implement the Islamic financial system, we set up a syariah advisory panel under Bank Negara.

"The ulamas advise the government on how to implement Islamic principles in the economic sector and other fields," he told reporters after closing a course for Umno speakers organised by the Umno information bureau.

PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor, in the Feb 16 to 26 issue of PAS organ "Harakah", said Dr Mahathir "had shamed himself and the Muslim community by making his speech before VIPs, which included Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, at the economic summit.

Mustapa said what was questioned and criticised by the government are narrow-minded ulamas with personal and political agendas and whose views are not based on facts.

He said some of the ulamas are not progressive in their outlook and their views are not suited to the situation in Malaysia and in other countries.

"If you look at Dr Mahathir's contributions to Malaysia, particularly to the Malays and Islam, his contributions are much more than the ulamas in PAS.

"Recently, I had an opportunity to meet several Islamic country leaders and they praised Dr Mahathir's speech in New York.

"He is a Muslim leader who dared to speak the truth so that Muslims will be safe and not backward," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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