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Fadzil-Mahathir

PAPAL MEETING COULD HELP ERASE MISUNDERSTANDING ON ISLAM, SAYS FADZIL

KOTA BAHARU, May 29 (Bernama) -- The scheduled meeting between Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Pope John Paul II at the Vatican next month could help to erase the misunderstanding on Islam, especially among Christians, said PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor today.

He said the Prime Minister could use the meeting to convey the message on Islam.

However, he said he did not think the meeting would be of any help to the Palestinian problem.

"The Palestinian problem is the problem of today's Muslims," he said, commenting on the papal meeting scheduled for June 7, two days before Dr Mahathir's trip to Switzerland and Luxembourg from June 9 to 12.

On criticism by PAS members against the party leadership for sharing the same platform with Umno leaders in the recent forum on Palestine in Kuala Lumpur, Fadzil said the Palestinian issue involved all Malaysians.

Speaking to reporters after opening an international conference on Palestine here, he said that on the question of whether PAS would share again the same platform with Umno would depend on the issue raised.

"The forum was the initiative of the Malaysian Muslim Youths Movement (Abim) and Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka. I think they are sincere in the matter to tell the world that Malaysians from different political ideologies and races want justice for the Palestinian people," he said.

Fadzil also said PAS is ready to face the general election in spite of the obstacles faced by the party such as the ban on public ceramah.

However, he said he did not think Dr Mahathir would call for a snap general election considering that the Election Commission had yet to complete its exercise to review the electoral boundary.

He claimed that PAS is getting stronger with over 1,000 new members joining the party each month.

Commenting on the statement of Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain that the Barisan Nasional would win with big majority in Kedah in the next general election, Fadzil said Syed Razak said that merely to appease himself.

He said PAS was only waiting for the right time to "invade" the state and expose weaknesses of the state government.

Kedah PAS would hold a convention next month to assess its strength to capture Kedah in the next general election, he said.

--BERNAMA

BD ABG