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PAS-Australia

PAS SUPPORTS GOVT IN ISSUES AFFECTING COUNTRY'S INTERESTS AND SECURITY

KUALA TERENGGANU, Dec 4 (Bernama) -- PAS will support the government in tackling any attempts by foreign powers to undermine the country's interests and sovereignty, PAS vice-president Datuk Mustafa Ali said today.

He said PAS agreed with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement which criticised Australia for its arrogance.

"For PAS, we are with the government on issues affecting our country's interests and security...we don't differ on this although we may differ on other aspects," he told reporters after the weekly state executive council meeting here.

On Monday Dr Mahathir criticised Australian Prime Minister John Howard for saying that he would not hesitate to launch pre-emptive strikes against terrorists in neighbouring countries if they planned to attack Australian interests.

He said Malaysia would consider any such intrusion by Australia as an act of war and would take action according to its own laws to protect its sovereignty and independence.

Mustafa, who is also state Economic, Petroleum, Industrial and Human Resources Development Committee chairman, said Howard's statement was crude and arrogant.

He said Australia gave more priority to skin colour than regional relations and was still tied to the white man's policy of yore.

"Australia doesn't show that it has any regional ties. It prefers to show that the white man's ties come first.

"That's why when the United States intruded on other countries, Australia was prepared to follow suit on the same excuse," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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