

18 AUG 2003

Abdullah-PAS

ABDULLAH: PAS' NEW STRATEGY AN ELECTION PLOY

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 18 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today that PAS' reported move to drop the Islamic state concept in the next general election campaign is just a political gimmick.

"That is an election tactic. It is clear that PAS is deceiving the people, telling the Malays one thing and the non-Malays another thing," the Deputy Prime Minister said.

"And in order not to hurt the feelings of its allies in the opposition, PAS has drawn up its own strategy," he told reporters after chairing the 51st meeting of the National Council for Local Governments here.

Abdullah, who is Umno deputy president, said PAS' move could be taken as an admission that the party was not capable of establishing an Islamic state.

PAS acting president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang has reportedly issued a document to party leaders stating that PAS would no longer promise voters the implementation of hudud laws and the setting up of an Islamic state in the next general election.

However, Hadi yesterday insisted that PAS would continue with its struggle to set up an Islamic state and to implement hudud laws, especially in states under its rule.

Abdullah said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's declaration of Malaysia as an Islamic country had been accepted by Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties.

"Our friends in the BN representing the other races all did not object because the Islamic state we have established is agreeable to them, and they are not sidelined in the development we have brought," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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