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Hadi-OIC

HADI APPRECIATES DR MAHATHIR'S INVITE TO OIC SUMMIT

KUALA TERENGGANU, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang today expressed gratitude to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for inviting him to attend the official opening of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit meeting at Putrajaya tomorrow.

The Terengganu Menteri Besar said he would attend the function as the OIC Summit was something most meaningful.

"I thank Dr Mahathir, who not only contacted me by letter but also invited me verbally," he told reporters, here.

Hadi also said he was happy with the preparation made by the government to ensure the success of the OIC Summit which had lifted the country's image.

On Dr Mahathir's retirement at the end of the month, he said the Prime Minister had contributed a lot the country including introducing Malaysia to the international community.

When asked to make a comparison between Dr Mahathir and other leaders of Islamic nations, Hadi said in jest that he did not want to give any mark on the Prime Minister's leadership.

"I don't want to give any mark, but he certainly has succeeded in lifting Malaysia's image," he said.

Asked on the honour given to Dr Mahathir by various parties, he said that he feared the Prime Minister might no longer be remembered after his retirement.

According to Hadi, this was because everyone would praise a leader when he was in power, but it would be the contrary once he no longer held any position.

"Dr Mahathir had been expelled from Umno once before and no Umno people dared to go near his house then because he was under police scrutiny, but those who did go (to his house) were PAS people. I fear the same will happen again when Dr Mahathir retires, no one may want to go near him," he said.

On the Hudud law, the Terengganu Menteri Besar said those who would not vote for PAS after the party had implemented the Syariah Criminal (Hudud and Qisas) Enactment in Terengganu were "criminals" who feared punishment.

He expressed confidence that PAS would get more support once the state government gazetted the law on Oct 27.

"(Those) who do not vote for us are only the criminals, because they fear punishment. I don't care if PAS loses in the general election for implementing the Hudud and Qisas because what is important is to discharge our responsibility to gain Allah's blessing," he said.

Hadi, said the Terengganu government did not need police cooperation in implementing the law because it would be determined by the `kadi`.

He said the police were only involved in criminal cases which were general in nature, while those under the Hudud and Qisas law would be decided by the `kadi` under strict terms.

When asked whether the Terengganu government had officially informed the federal government about gazetting the law, he said it had not.

He also said that the Terengganu government would pay the half-month bonus to its employees this year.

"Yes, we will follow the federal government and we will pay the bonus," he added.

--BERNAMA

AYB HIS MAI AO