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Hadi-Interpretation

HADI SAYS DR M HAS WRONG INTERPRETATION ON ISLAMIC STATE

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 14 (Bernama) -- PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang has dismissed Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's challenge to PAS to issue a memorandum on the setting up of an Islamic state, claiming that the prime minister has misinterpreted the matter.

"We consider the prime minister's challenge as no longer relevant because the prime minister has his own interpretation which regards the (PAS) understanding as wrong," he said when winding up the debate on his keynote address at the 49th PAS annual general assembly here today.

Abdul Hadi suggested that the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (IKIM) and local ulamas come up with the proper definition of a real Islamic state.

Abdul Hadi had earlier disputed the government's declaration of Malaysia as an Islamic state although scholars from several countries, including the Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar, Dr Mohammad Sayed Tantawi, have acknowledged that Malaysia is an Islamic state.

Abdul Hadi had also disputed the authority of Dr Tantawi, who issues fatwas (religious edicts) abided by Muslims, because he said Dr Tantawi was appointed by the Egyptian government and not by the ulamas and academics of the Al-Azhar University like before.

A PAS Youth delegate yesterday criticised the party leadership for failing to issue a manifesto on its concept of Islamic state, the core of the party's struggle, despite ruling Kelantan and Terengganu.

In his winding-up speech, Abdul Hadi also criticised the mainstream media in the country for allegedly not doing enough to inform the public about the kind of Islamic state PAS wanted to set up.

He urged party members and the public to do their own research on PAS' struggle to set up an Islamic state instead of just relying on information from the media.

Abdul Hadi said although the ulama institution formed the core of the party's struggle, the intellectual and professional groups would not be neglected.

Both the ulama and intellectual groups had important roles to play to make the party relevant, he said.

He also said there was a need to educate the professionals and intellectuals in the party to bring their religious knowledge on par with that of ulamas.

-- BERNAMA

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