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Mahathir-PAS

PAS MANIFESTOS TO GARNER VOTES, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 19 (Bernama) -- PAS has two manifestos for the next general elections to trick the people and garner votes, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said Malaysians were not so stupid and were wise enough to see through PAS' motive in having different manifestos for the State and Federal levels.

"To trick the people of Kelantan and Terengganu, it (PAS) promises to set up an Islamic state.

"At the Federal level, it says it will not (set up an Islamic state and implement hudud laws) to garner the votes of the non-Muslims.

"It's a trick. I think Malaysians are not stupid, they know the aim (for PAS doing this)," he told a media conference at the Royal Malaysian Air Force base in Subang, near here, upon his return from a visit to Algeria, Syria and Swaziland.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked to comment on the reported change in PAS' stand to drop the concept of an Islamic State and the implementation of hudud laws in the next general elections to avoid a big split among parties in the opposition alliance.

On whether the different manifestos by PAS could be taken as a form of recognition that Malaysia was already an Islamic State, he said the whole world, especially the Islamic countries, had acknowledged that Malaysia was not only an Islamic State but a model Islamic State that they wanted to emulate.

"All of them say so, not just (Syrian) President Dr Bashar Al-Assad and (Algerian) President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, but also the businessmen, senior government officials and Ministers of the two countries.

"They say that this is the Islamic country that they want to emulate and they want a lot of information from us on how we can develop our country when the world is saying that the Islamic nations cannot possibly do so (develop and succeed), but we have shown that an Islamic nation has the ability to develop without relegating religion, " he said.

-- BERNAMA

HS NER AHH JK SRI