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Zainuddin-Document

PAS SHOULD WITHDRAW FATWA FIRST, SAYS ZAINUDDIN

ALOR STAR, Nov 17 (Bernama) -- PAS should first withdraw its fatwa branding Umno members and supporters as infidels before it could think of inviting all political party chiefs in the country to discuss its Islamic State blueprint launched last Wednesday.

Deputy Information Minister Datuk Zainuddin Maidin said PAS President Datuk Abdul Hadi Awang who issued the edict should have no problem withdrawing it if the party was sincere.

"I urge Abdul Hadi to withdraw the fatwa, which is contrary to the teachings of Islam before we can sit down together to discuss the Islamic State Document of PAS," he told reporters after attending a home-coming ceremony for Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Sultan Abdul Halim airport, Kepala Batas here today.

He was asked to comment on Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat's statement for a meeting of all political party chiefs to discuss the document.

Nik Abdul Aziz felt that in this way, they could voice their dissatisfaction and hear the explanation directly from Abdul Hadi, who is also the Terengganu Menteri Besar.

Zainuddin said it was important for the fatwa to be withdrawn to prevent the party from using it to further accuse Umno of not adhering to the teachings of Islam if the document were to be rejected.

PAS Information Chief Datuk Dr Harun Din had already stated in the Harakah, the opposition party's political organ, that he tell the people that Umno had rejected Islam.

The invitation to discuss the document was nothing but a show because the editorial in the English version of Harakah had reminded PAS leaders not to sit at the same table anymore with those deemed as unbelievers, he said.

Zainuddin said he still held onto the belief that the public should not waste their time discussing the document which was not relevant to the present situation whether in terms of social, religion or politics in the country.

He said the document was an attempt to clean up the image of PAS, smeared by exposures made by RTM.

-- BERNAMA

MNH ABG