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PAS-Out

SOME 2,000 PAS MEMBERS, SUPPORTERS IN BESUT LEAVE PARTY

BESUT, Terengganu, Feb 18 (Bernama) -- Some 2,000 PAS members and supporters in Besut gathered last night at the house of a former PAS leader here and decided to leave the party.

They also pledged to cripple PAS and help the Barisan Nasional win the next general election during the function at the house of former Besut PAS Chief Abdul Latif Ahmad.

The group will hold another gathering soon to decide if they wish to join Umno or otherwise.

Abdul Latif, 62, who led the PAS members and supporters out of PAS, said he initiated the move not because of vengeance but to let PAS members know that anyone who criticised the party or its leaders would be expelled and labelled as traitors.

He said the group would explain to the people as to why they decided to leave PAS.

Abdul Latif also said PAS should in fact no longer exist following the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's declaration that Malaysia was an Islamic state which had been accepted as such by the whole world.

The declaration of Malaysia as an Islamic state had the support of the majority including non-Muslims, he said.

A state civil servant, Raja Ayob Raja Kechik, 50, who has been a PAS member for 30 years, said the party leaders did not have the right to expel any member who criticised the party.

"They even said that it is haram to eat the meat of a cow slaughtered by Abdul Latif. This is wrong (because) the question of haram or halal is decided by Allah," he added.

Mamat Zakaria, 47, who has been a PAS member for 27 years, said he had now come to realise that Umno was the party that had always safeguarded the Malays, Islam and the country.

"I declare that PAS is enemy number one and I will help Umno to win all the seats in this state," he said.

-- BERNAMA

SN MAI AAM