

20 APR 2003

Najib-PAS

UMNO-PAS CAN COOPERATE ON CERTAIN MATTERS, SAYS NAJIB

PARIT, April 20 (Bernama) -- Umno and PAS share a common stand on certain matters concerning the interests of the country and Muslims, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

He hoped that this understanding would help reduce the dispute between the two parties.

"The PAS acting president's statement on the prime minister proves that PAS, in certain matters, is aware that the prime minister's leadership has saved the country's integrity from being compromised," he told reporters after opening the Parit Umno Division delegates meeting in Lambor Kanan, near here.

He was commenting on PAS acting president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang's statement that he was impressed with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's handling of foreign policies and was willing to defend him if foreign powers tried to interfere in the country's internal affairs.

Abdul Hadi was also quoted as saying that he respected the prime minister for his boldness in rejecting aid by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) during the 1997-1998 economic crisis.

Najib said Umno's struggle to protect the country's integrity and the government's opposition to the Iraq war had attracted the attention of PAS leaders.

In ALOR GAJAH, Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhamad Taib said Hadi should admit that Umno's struggles were based on the true Islamic struggle.

"If Hadi himself as the PAS leader has admitted that Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, has discharged his duties properly on Malaysia's foreign policies, I think the question of internal affairs is also the same," he told reporters after opening the Alor Gajah Umno delegates meeting in Masjid Tanah.

Muhammad urged PAS members to consider joining Umno to strengthen Malay unity.

"Hadi, do not just support one half and not support the other half ...actually in his heart he admits that Umno's struggle is according to Islamic principles," he said.

In Kluang, Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said since Hadi had acknowledged the effectiveness of government policies, it would be better for PAS to be dissolved so that its members could join Umno to avoid any conflict.

-- BERNAMA

NO YBY