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FORMER PAS STRONGMAN QUESTIONS PARTY'S CAUSE

KUALA TERENGGANU, Jan 5 (Bernama) -- The PAS' struggle to set up an Islamic nation is no longer relevant after Malaysia was declared an Islamic country by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 2000 with a majority of the requirements of Islam having been fulfilled by the Barisan Nasional (BN) government.

"The declaration has been made, only its fulfilment needs to be streamlined and as such, I think PAS should no longer exist in this country...what's the point of having PAS as Malaysia is already an Islamic country?" said former PAS information officer Abdul latif Mohamad.

If there were still others who were still carrying on the struggle purportedly to set up an Islamic nation, then the struggle certainly had specific motives, he said.

He said he accepted the fact that Malaysia was now an Islamic country, and called on his followers to support the BN government which now ruled Malaysia.

Abdul Latif, 53, said he had been a PAS member for far too long and it was clear that the party leaders had failed to prepare the concept for an Islamic nation although they had been pressed to do so several times before.

"Today, we are convinced that Malaysia is an Islamic country and it's our responsibility to support it," he told reporters at a media conference, here today.

He said he was determined to help BN in toppling the PAS-led government in Terengganu in the next general election, adding that more than 4,000 former PAS members and supporters in Besut were now prepared to assist in achieving this objective.

-- BERNAMA
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