

06/01/2004

Pas no longer relevant, says former leader

KUALA TERENGGANU, Mon. - Pas is passe in Malaysian politics because its objective of making Malaysia an Islamic nation has already been realised by the Federal Government, a former Pas leader said today.

"There is no need for Pas to exist ... the country is an Islamic nation and the Government has established a strong foundation for the religion to grow," said Abdul Latif Mohamad, Pas' former Terengganu deputy commissioner.

He said when Pas was founded in 1951, its objective was to make Malaysia an Islamic nation.

"But in 2000, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad had declared Malaysia an Islamic nation. Therefore, there is nothing more for Pas to fight for," he said here.

He had earlier given a briefing on the Goodbye Pas programme to be held on Wednesday.

Abdul Latif was a close aide of Pas president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang before he left the party after the 1999 general election.