

25/02/2004

Book on what's an Islamic state

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The question of what constitutes an Islamic state will be discussed in a book entitled Malaysia as an Islamic State, to be launched this week.

The book, a project of the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (Ikim), will feature articles by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Ikim chairman Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid and director-general Datuk Dr Abdul Monir Yaacob.

The publication was not meant to counter Pas' Islamic state document released last November, said Monir.

"We know Pas does not regard Malaysia as an Islamic state. Our view is (an Islamic state) involves more than just hudud laws. If a nation's policies are consistent with the welfare of the rakyat and facilitate the advancement of Islam, then it is a Muslim country," he said.

"The book is not meant as an election document," he added.

The 850-page book will be launched on Friday at a seminar on "Malaysia's Achievements as an Islamic State", to be opened by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak. Participants include academics, religious heads and representatives from political parties.

"Dewan Ulama Pas head Datuk Harun Taib has confirmed his attendance. We hope that the Democratic Action Party and Parti Keadilan Nasional, whom we have invited, will send representatives," said Monir, who will also present a paper at the seminar.