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'Pas will back Government if sovereignty is threatened'

KUALA TERENGGANU, Wed. - Pas will help the Government defend the country if the nation's sovereignty is threatened, party vice-president Datuk Mustafa Ali said today.

He said the party shared the same opinion as the Government on matters concerning national integrity and sovereignty.

"It is our responsibility to back the Government in dealing with threats to the country," he said after the weekly State Executive Council meeting.

He was asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's New Year's address to the nation in which he pledged to defend Malaysia against all possible "attacks".

Dr Mahathir had also said Malaysians might not be able to change the world, but they were masters of their own destiny, while warning that those who threaten the country's sovereignty would risk a "bloody nose".

Mustafa, who is a State Executive Council member, said Pas might only differ in opinion with the Government on how such threats should be handled.