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Malaysia accepted as 'model Islamic state'

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Muslims will not be influenced by Pas' Dokumen Negara Islam (Islamic state document) because the majority have accepted the fact that Malaysia is a model Islamic state, as declared by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and endorsed by various ulama, local and foreign.

"Since Merdeka we have built this democratic country based on the fundamentals of Islam, and the Barisan Nasional Government has already implemented most of the provisions stated in Pas' document," said Umno Youth religious bureau chief Shamsul Najmi Shamsuddin.

He saw no immediate need for Umno Youth to conduct any studies on the implications of the document because Umno Youth had closely followed the Islamic state concept suggested by Pas even before it was launched.

"We have studied the contents of the document for a long time.

"Our view is that it is nothing more than a political tool to fish for votes."

Shamsul Najmi, who is also an Umno Youth executive council member, said non-Muslims would never accept the document because Pas is not consistent with its stand.

He said non-Muslims will not be fooled by the party's "packaging" of its Islamic state struggle.

"Non-Muslims won't buy Pas' empty promises, they will not gain any benefit from the party's struggle," he added.