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Theocratic in all but name

PAS' so-called Dokumen Negara Islam outlining its proposed Islamic state is out and it makes no bones about being merely a political ploy, a means to further the lie that it will deliver to Muslims all the articles of their faith and more. It does not even pretend to condemn the Constitution and thus justify the need for something else. Instead, it plans to keep the Federal Constitution and amend it where appropriate and when it is deemed nec-essary - meaning that the Constitution is not too far off the mark vis-a-vis its Islamic essence.

Hence, the statement by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad that Malaysia was already, in essence, an Islamic state. Pas is being nothing short of opportunistic in trying to sell the notion that its document is the alternative to the Federal Constitution when it obviously plans to operate from the same basis, one that it clearly concedes will guarantee the dual system of laws and judiciary that is the status quo.

Why then call it Dokumen Negara Islam when it accepts the bulk of the system, including its democratic institutions? In fact, there is admission on the part of the party president that the difference is purely semantic. Whereas currently the interpretation of the term Islam relies on the intention given it by the colonial Reid Commission, Pas' amendment will reflect the sovereignty of an independent nation state. Upon this hollow assertion lies the justification of Pas' proposed Islamic state.

That the document is purely a political instrument is unequivocally spelt out by its balancing act with regard to the non-Muslim citizens. Everything that would make it an alternative is removed to accommodate the non-Muslim population. This spells hypocrisy because when the Government does so, Pas condemns it as unIslamic. Yet, when the party that purports to be Islamic does it, it becomes Islamic. The leadership is disingenuous to go so far as to deny its support for a theocratic state while it pushes for its version of the hudud.

Pas is trading on mere labels and hoping to trick the electorate into believing that its proposals are substantive. The Islamic state that it proposes has rejected the tenets upon which the Medina Charter stood. By so doing, there is a clear admission on the part of its leadership that the multi-ethnicity of Malaysia calls for what the nation already possesses. If it is otherwise, then this document is Pas' biggest lie ever and poses a huge danger to the country. The nation will be imperilled should Malaysians fall for it.