

Religious Pluralism Elements In Anwar's London Speech
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KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian Islamic Development Department (Jakim) has confirmed that there were elements of religious pluralism in a speech delivered by Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim in London in March last year, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Jamil Khir Baharom.

He said the speech had elements that disputed the exclusivity of truth that is only found in Islam as it broached on subjects like the Transcendent Unity of Religions through the universal concept of sufism, equality of religions, Perennial Wisdom and Metaphysical Unity.

Jamil Khir said this when winding up debate on the motion of thanks for the Royal address in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He added that Jakim would continue to monitor such activities as the National Fatwa Council in 2006 and ruled that the concept of prularism in religion and liberal thinking was against Islamic doctrines.

Meanwhile, Deputy Human Resource Minister Maznah Mazlan when winding up her debate, said the country still needed to import highly skilled manpower.

She said this was because Malaysians with the requisite specialised skills met only 28 per cent of manpower requirements in this category as compared to Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan at above 40 per cent while in developed countries such as those in Europe, the figure was between 70 and 80 per cent.

(Bernama)

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