

Umno Continues To Uphold Islam
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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 2 (Bernama) -- There is no assurance that a political party which uses the name, Islam will implement or is capable of implementing Islamic teachings, said religious preacher Datuk Mohd Nakhaie Ahmad.

What more with the uncertainties surrounding its collaboration with non-Muslim political allies, making it even more impossible for a party with an Islamic label to ensure that everything it does is based on the teachings of Islam.

"As Muslims, we should choose a leader who not only vows to uphold the Islamic struggle, but also able to realise the Islamic requirements with wisdom to benefit the people and nation.

"We have to ensure that they are really implemented and not remain as mere rhetoric," he told Bernama when asked whether the use of the name, Islam by a political party would guarantee that it would implement what was required in Islam.

The former president of the Islamic Dakwah Foundation Malaysia (Yadim) said there was no assurance that a political party which used the name, Islam would do everything based on Islamic teachings.

"Moderation in everything is more important than to harp loudly about Islam, when actually nothing is done.

"The excuse that it (PAS) does not have the power to do so cannot be accepted, when it already has power in certain states," he added.

The chairman of the Global Dakwah Friendship Organisation also said that the federal government had carried out various programmes to meet the Islamic agenda, but these efforts were not branded Islamic.

"For example, building of universities, schools, providing water, electricity, houses, mosques and roads for the people. All these are not labelled Islamic although they are demanded in Islam for the people's well-being," he added.

While many Muslims did not fully understand what was demanded by fardhu kifayah (communal obligations), the opposition had the tendency to label everything Islam, and even went to the extent of claiming that insulting and making enemies with fellow Muslims were allowed in Islam, he pointed out.

Mohd Nakhaie, who used to be a PAS vice-president before leaving the party, said it was not necessary to choose a person who looked or seemed pious if he had no knowledge or skills to administer the country, develop its economy and maintain its security, as a leader.

Many Islamic religious scholars, local and foreign, have recognised Malaysia as a model Islamic country due to the various efforts carried out by the Barisan Nasional (BN) government that are in line with Islamic teachings and requirements.

These included the setting up of higher learning institutions such as the International Islamic University, Malaysia in 1983, which has since produced tens of thousands of graduates in various fields, including civil and syariah law, economy, humanities and engineering.

The establishment of Tabung Haji in 1963 was also a manifestation of the BN government's commitment in looking after the interests and welfare of Muslims in the country.

Through efforts like hosting the international Quran recital assembly, which has entered its 54th year and attracting participation from 76 countries this time, Malaysia has become well known and respected in the Muslim world.

The person responsible for starting this event on March 6, 1961, was the first prime minister, the late Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, who was also known as the "Father of Independence" and "Father of Malaysia".

These are several examples and proof that Islam is held highly by the country's administration.

Muslims should ask themselves whether all these have been achieved by coincidence, with no careful planning and earnest implementation by the Umno-led BN government.

Chairman of the Umno Youth Ulama Secretariat (ILMU), Fathul Bhari Mat Jahaya said Umno provided ample space and opportunities for him to pursue his Islamic missionary work.

"We want to deliver the message of Islam to everyone for common good. Between the Umno and PAS constitutions, Umno's is more encompassing when it comes to meeting the requirements in Islam," he said.

He believes that many young ulama today have got a clearer picture of Umno's real struggle in upholding Islam.

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