

**Education, Economic "Jihad" Better For Malaysian Muslims - PAS
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KOTA BAHARU, Oct 17 (Bernama) -- Muslims in Malaysia need not get involved in militant activities on the excuse that it is jihad (holy war) because they have ample room to "jihad" in the aspects of education and the economy in the country, said PAS Dewan Ulama (Religious Scholars Wing) acting chief Datuk Ahmad Yakob.

He said recruiting Malaysians to join militant groups in Syria was unacceptable because this was against Islam.

"We do not know what is the real agenda of these (militant) groups, so we have to be careful about the words and (Quranic) verses they use (to entice people to join them)," he told reporters after launching the book "Khalifah: Kita Pilihan ALLAH" here Friday.

Ahmad, who is also Kelantan Menteri Besar, also urged parents to monitor the movements of their children who are studying in West Asia to ensure they did not join these groups.

Yesterday, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar had said the police had identified the mastermind responsible for recruiting Malaysians to join militant groups in Syria.

Fourteen individuals suspected to be sympathisers of the Islamic State were caught in a police dragnet recently.

On other matters, Ahmad said PAS respected the decision of former Batu Berendam Member of Parliament Mohd Tamrin Tun Ghafar who has announced that he was leaving PAS.

"As a democratic country, we can't prevent him from doing so, maybe he has his reasons, we have no problems about he leaving (PAS) and accept his decision with an open heart," he said.

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