

## **Indonesia Wants To Promote Moderation In Islam With Malaysia**

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**By Azeman Ariffin**

JAKARTA, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- The concept of moderation in Islam, which was introduced in Malaysia is in line with the concept of 'Islam Nusantara' in Indonesia, said Indonesia's Vice-President Jusuf Kalla.

He said both concepts had proved that Muslims in both countries rejected any form of extremism and chose to live in a successful and peaceful country.

"Indonesia and Malaysia are peaceful nations...there is no radicalism in Islam and we are not failed nations. We have moderate views," he said in an exclusive interview with Bernama, here recently.

He said activities linked to terrorism launched by certain parties were not caused by religious affiliation but because the people were living in a failed state.

"There are some Muslim groups which are radical and it can happen anywhere, people are afraid, not just people in Europe, but even Muslims are afraid. They resort to bombings such as in Pakistan, Yemen, and Syria," he said.

Jusuf said all Muslims must work together to stop radicalism in Muslim countries because this was not included in the true teachings of Islam.

However, he said, Muslims became radical because their countries were destroyed by western countries and the people's uprising had created militant groups.

"For example, Al-Qaeda sprang up in Afghanistan because it is a failed nation...it was attacked by Russia and the United States and because of the destruction, the Al-Qaeda rose to provide new protection, and became radical.

"Similarly, the emergence of terrorist groups such as the ISIS in Iraq and Syria because the United States wanted to destroy Saddam Hussein. They helped the rebels in Iraq and Syria and from that destruction, new ideologies came about which became radical. The west destroyed these countries and they created their own enemies," he said.

The vice-president said the collapse of the Middle Eastern countries became worse when there were different thoughts namely Syiah and Sunni which toppled their government radically and claimed many Muslim lives.

Jusuf said the radicalism entered other countries through the modern information technology but the government of Malaysia and Indonesia managed to control it.

He said the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) could do nothing to combat

terrorism because it did not have the strength to take any action.

"The OIC is only a group of 54 nations, it cannot make decisions, cannot take action, it is more oriented towards holding conferences," he said.

He said that even though there were more Muslims in the Middle East, it was difficult to unite all Muslims because there were differences between the Sunni and Syiah sects.

"We do not ban any thoughts...there is Syiah in Indonesia and we allow it but we do not want the thought to spread," he said.

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