

MAHATHIR - CRITICISE

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ALOR STAR, JULY 21 (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY HIT OUT AT CERTAIN RELIGIOUS TEACHERS AND LEADERS WHO BOYCOTTED SOCIAL GATHERINGS AND "KENDURI" ORGANISED BY PEOPLE WITH POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES OPPOSED TO THEIRS.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID A FEW OF THEM DID NOT ATTEND FUNERAL PRAYERS JUST BECAUSE THE DEAD PERSON AND HIS FAMILY HAD SUBSCRIBED TO DIFFERENT POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A MEETING WITH BARISAN NASIONAL SUPPORTERS AND VOTERS IN THE BATU 6 FELDA SCHEME, 34 MILES FROM HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID BOYCOTT OF FUNERAL PRAYERS HAD TAKEN PLACE IN A KAMPUNG IN A NEARBY CONSTITUENCY WHICH HAD BEEN WON BY PAS IN THE RECENT GENERAL ELECTION.

RELIGIOUS TEACHERS AND LEADERS IN THE KAMPUNG HAD INFLUENCED THE PEOPLE TO BOYCOTT THE PRAYER CEREMONY BECAUSE THE DEAD PERSON HAD BEEN AN UMN ONNE SAID. — BERNAMA MORE 2211/YF

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THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED REGRET THAT SUCH AN INCIDENT HAD TAKEN PLACE EVEN AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION AND SAID IT WOULD ONLY DISUNITE THE MUSLIM SOCIETY AND CAUSE TENSION AMONG MUSLIMS.

FURTHERMORE, THE BOYCOTT WAS CONTRARY TO ISLAMIC TEACHINGS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT ISLAM REQUIRED ITS FOLLOWERS TO UNITE THE PEOPLE, INCLUDING NON-MUSLIMS.

HE SAID IT WAS SAD THAT PAS HAD CAUSED DISUNITY AMONG MUSLIMS IN AN EFFORT TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR THE PARTY.

HE URGED MUSLIMS TO BE CAUTIOUS OF PAS MEMBERS WHO MIGHT ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THEM TO UNDERTAKE ACTIONS CONTRARY TO ISLAMIC TEACHINGS — BERNAMA MORE 2227/YF

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THESE PERSONS WERE MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE COMMUNISTS BECAUSE AS RELIGIOUS TEACHERS AND LEADERS THEY COULD INFLUENCE THE MUSLIMS EASILY.

HE HOPED THAT UMNO MEMBERS WOULD NOT RESORT TO SUCH PRACTICE. — BERNAMA 2230/YF