

ND92 (F)
MAHATHIR-RELIGION
FROM ENDOT YUSOF

BANGKOK, OCT. 25²⁰ (BERNAMA) - DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE ACTION ONLY AGAINST RELIGIOUS GROUPS THAT HAVE DEVIATED FROM THE TRUE ISLAMIC TEACHINGS.

HE ASSURED THAT PROPER MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED.

SPEAKING TO MALAYSIAN NEWSMEN BEFORE RETURNING TO KUALA LUMPUR AFTER ATTENDING THE 10TH ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS' MEETING HERE, HE SAID: "WE HAVE TO LISTEN TO ALL THE PREACHING BY THE VARIOUS DAKWAH MOVEMENTS, AND IF WE FIND THAT THEY HAVE DEVIATED, ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THEM," HE SAID.

"NOBODY CAN STOP HONEST DAKWAH MOVEMENTS FROM CARRYING ON THEIR ACTIVITIES," HE ADDED.

--BERNAMA MORE HM 2302

ND93 (F)
MAHATHIR - RELIGION 2 BANGKOK

ASKED ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE MALAYSIAN ISLAMIC YOUTH MOVEMENT (ABIM), HE SAID IT WAS THE SAME AS TOWARDS ANY OTHER ORGANISATION.

IF ANY ORGANISATION STEPPED OUT OF LINE THEN THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST IT, HE SAID.

ORGANISATIONS THAT KEPT WITHIN THE LAW AND CARRIED OUT HONEST MISSIONARY WORK DESIGNED TO SPREAD THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM NEED NOT HAVE ANY FEAR, HE SAID.

BUT WHEN ANY ORGANISATION MIXED ISLAM WITH POLITICS, PARTICULARLY USED ISLAM FOR ITS OWN ENDS, AND IN THE PROCESS TWISTED THE INTERPRETATION OF THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM, THEN THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO DO SOMETHING, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID.

HE SAID THERE WAS NO NECESSITY FOR PARLIAMENT TO ENACT NEW LEGISLATION TO CONTROL THE ACTIVITIES OF DEVIATIONIST GROUPS AS THE PRESENT LAWS WERE ADEQUATE.

--BERNAMA HM 2306

97