

Dr M: Beware of deviant teachings

(P)

NST 29 MAR 1982

JITRA, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today warned of attempts to separate Islam from the Malaysian way of life.

He said the leader of the deviant teachings known as Crypto had claimed to be the Imam Mahadi and was making use of religion as a bait to attract followers.

"These deviant teachings are based on Zionism and there have been reports that they have spread to Sungei Patani, Penang and Selangor," he said.

He attributed such happenings to the fact that many Muslims do not have a deep knowledge of Islam.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said this when he opened a course for about 500 religious teachers from the Kubang Pasu district at the Tunku Abdul Halim Secondary School here.

By SHUKOR RAHMAN

"Islam is suitable for all times and we cannot separate Islam from our way of life," he said.

The Prime Minister advised religious teachers to be aware of what is happening around them so that they could guide the Muslims in facing changes.

The Muslims, he added, could not be prevented from facing the changes taking place around them.

Respect

He said that if religious teachers were effective, the people would not be swayed by religious opinions or beliefs that did not belong to this country.

"If we do not live as Islamic people — in peace and in pursuit of knowledge — and become backward, not only will the non-Muslims regard

Islam as non-beneficial but other Muslims too may have less faith in the religion," he said.

The Prime Minister said that Islam had experienced a dynamic growth in the country since Merdeka.

Islam, he said, had shown its capability to lead kampung society and Malaysian religious leaders had also won the respect of Islamic nations abroad.

In Penang, SHAHRIN SHUIB reports that Muslim residents in Jelutong held a kenduri (thanksgiving feast) at the Jelutong Mosque today "to celebrate" the detention of nine followers of the Crypto, including its leader.

The kenduri was organised by the action committee formed to eliminate the deviant teachings and is headed by the mosque's imam,

Haji Mohamad Khatib bin Omar.

More than 500 people were invited to the kenduri, including 65 orphans and representatives from the police and the Press.

Also present were the North-East district officer Haji Ahmad Salleh and officials from the Religious Affairs Division in the Prime Minister's Department in Kuala Lumpur.

The residents also held prayers of thanks for the arrests.

Haji Mohamad Khatib said: "We would like to thank the police for their action."

He said the residents also appreciated the roles of the police and the Religious Affairs Division in eliminating the Crypto teachings.

"With the arrests, the resident in Jelutong can once again live in peace and harmony," Haji Khatib said.

A member of the action committee, Encik Khalid Arabi said: "We are sure that with their detention, the Crypto teachings and activities have been dealt a severe blow."