

MAHATHIR - PAS
BM.

82 (P)
KOTA BHARU, APRIL 18 (BERNAMA) -- /DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY PAS LEADERS WERE USING RELIGION AS AN ATTRACTION TO WIN THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE, THEIR OBJECTIVE BEING TO ASSUME POWER AND ACCUMULATE MATERIAL WEALTH.

IT WAS NOT THEIR AIM TO PROMOTE THE PRACTICE OF THE RELIGION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHEN OPENING A MOSQUE AT PEKAN KOK LANAS, 27 KM FROM HERE.

IN FACT, HE ADDED, PAS LEADERS WERE USING ISLAM TO DECEIVE PEOPLE WHO WERE INTERESTED IN THE RELIGION BUT LACKED KNOWLEDGE IN IT.

THEY WERE OUT TO GET THEMSELVES ELECTED AS THE PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES MERELY FOR THE BENEFITS THE ELECTIVE OFFICE WOULD BRING THEM. -- BERNAMA MORE 1858/MK

MAHATHIR - PAS 2 KOTA BHARU

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID ISLAM DOES NOT FORBID ITS FOLLOWERS TO COOPERATE AND MAINTAIN CLOSE RELATIONS WITH NON-MUSLIMS SO LONG AS THESE PEOPLE RESPECTED THE RELIGION.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PEOPLE SUPPORTING THE MCA, MIC, GERAKAN AND OTHER PARTIES WHICH WERE COOPERATING WITH UMNO HAD NEVER CHALLENGED THE POSITION OF ISLAM, THE STATUS OF BAHASA MALAYSIA AND THE PRIVILEGES ACCORDED THE MALAYS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY RESPECTED ISLAM, THE COUNTRY'S OFFICIAL RELIGION, AND MUSLIMS, -- BERNAMA MORE 1900/MK

MAHATHIR - PAS 3 KOTA BHARU

PAS LEADERS, INSTEAD, WERE COOPERATING WITH PEOPLE WHO WERE OUT TO DESTROY ISLAM AND WHO WERE CHALLENGING THE POSITION OF BAHASA MALAYSIA AND THE PRIVILEGES OF THE MALAYS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS WAS EVIDENT IN THE PACT BETWEEN PAS AND THE DAP IN THIS AND THE LAST ELECTIONS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE DAP WAS LED BY PEOPLE WHO WERE QUESTIONING THE STATUS OF ISLAM AS THE COUNTRY'S OFFICIAL RELIGION.

THESE PEOPLE OPPOSED GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO BUILD MOSQUES AND IMPLEMENT OTHER PROJECTS TO PROMOTE ISLAM.

ON THE BARISAN NASIONAL'S CANDIDATE FOR THE STATE CONSTITUENCY OF SUNGAI KELADI IN KELANTAN, DATUK FOO CHOW YONG, HE SAID ALTHOUGH DATUK FOO IS A NON-MUSLIM, HE HAD SHOWN RESPECT FOR ISLAM.

DATUK FO HAD OFTEN ATTENDED GATHERINGS ORGANISED BY MUSLIMS AND IN FACT IS A FREQUENT DONOR TO MOSQUE PROJECTS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1918/MK

MAHATHIR - PAS 4 KOTA BHARU

DATUK FOO HAS BEEN THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR SUNGAI KELADI FOR FOURTERMS AND IS KNOWN AMONG THE CONSTITUENTS AS +USTAZ FOO+ FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO ISLAM.

THE PRIME MINISTER THEN ASKED: +HAVE WE EVER HEARD OF DAP LEADERS MAKING ANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO ISLAM AND MUSLIMS?+

HE THEN URGED THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN KELANTAN, NOT TO BE DECEIVED BY PAS LEADERS AS THE FOLLOWERS OF SUCH DEVIATIONIST GROUPS AS CRYPTO, SAIDINA ABU BAKAR IN JOHORE AND THE FANATICS WHO STORMED THE BATU PAHAT POLICE STATION HAD BEEN DECEIVED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO TOOK TO TASK THOSE GROUPS WHICH USED MOSQUES AS A MEDIUM TO SPLIT THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID THAT THE MOSQUE, APART FROM BEING A PLACE OF WORSHIP, SHOULD BE A VENUE WHERE MISUNDERSTANDINGS WERE IRONED OUT AND THE UNITY OF MUSLIMS STRENGTHENED.

MENTRI BESAR DATUK HAJI MOHAMED YAACOB DESCRIBED THOSE MUSLIMS WHO COOPERATED WITH THE DAP AS HAVING LOST THEIR SENSES. --
BERNAMA 1929/MK