

Groups NST 26 JUL 1962 out to split Muslims

RAUB, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today disunity being created among Muslims in this country by certain people who were out to manipulate Islam for their own ends must be stopped. "These people are succeeding in their action to divide the Muslims in this country.

"In Trengganu, the situation is bad and we see Muslims during Hari Raya Puasa praying with two Imams, one the official appointee and the other from a political party.

"The masjid is a place for unity among Muslims, not division," said the Prime Minister in a hard-hitting speech against these groups at the Umno divisional meeting here today.

Steadfast

He said these people, who have a knowledge of the religion, are out to divide the Muslims as they say Muslims from one party are "kafirs."

"If this disease is not controlled, it may spread.

"These people, for their own political ends, are willing to abuse the teachings of Islam to move ahead in politics," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said these people were hitting out at the prosperity and harmony in this country, saying it was better to die in a holy war like the people of Lebanon.

"They say it is more blissful to die fighting. They also say that peace is not God's will but the fighting is so in Lebanon.

"I invite them then to go to Lebanon," said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir.

He said these people must be prevented at all costs from breaking up the unity among Muslims in the country.

"The situation in Trengganu must not be allowed to be created in the other States because if this occurs, unity among Muslims will break up and they will not be able to continue their struggle as Muslims," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said it was important for all Umno members to stand steadfast and prevent these people from succeeding.

He said Umno was a party that, in all its actions, moved according to Islamic principles.

"Nobody need worry about what action Umno takes in this country as we will always be fair and in line with Islamic principles," he said.