

EMBARGO : FOR RELEASE AT 11 A.M. MAY 25

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 25 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD EXPOSED TODAY THE ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN GROUPS WHICH ARE UNDERMINING THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO INJECT ISLAMIC VALUES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THESE GROUPS RESORTED TO MAKING EXTREMIST INTERPRETATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S MOVE AND DISRUPTING THE ADMINISTRATION AND HE WARNED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GO ALL OUT TO CRUSH THEM.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THIS AT THE 35TH UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT THE HILTON HERE.

HE SAID THAT THESE GROUPS TRIED TO PROJECT ISLAM AS A RELIGION THAT WAS NOT TOLERANT TO THE EXTENT THAT MUSLIM GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WERE NOT ALLOWED TO BE FRIENDS WITH THE NON-MUSLIMS AND COULD NOT VISIT THEM DURING FESTIVALS.

EMPHASIS WAS NOT GIVEN TO THE QUESTION OF PROVIDING GOOD SERVICE AND UPHOLDING OF THE PLEDGES (A GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES) BUT TO THE QUESTION OF +HALAL-HARAM+, THE INTERPRETATION OF WHICH WAS MADE ACCORDING TO THEIR WHIMS AND FANCIES, HE ADDED. --- MORE 0939/MK

THE INTERPRETATIONS WERE SO EXTREME THAT THERE WERE OFFICERS WHO DID NOT WANT TO TOUCH ANY PAPER ON WHICH WAS WRITTEN THE WORD +PIG+, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THERE WERE EVEN THOSE WHO WERE PREPARED TO CHANGE THE DIRECTIVES OF THEIR SUPERIORS IF THESE WERE NOT IN LINE WITH THEIR EXTREMIST THINKING.

HE SAID THAT THERE WERE OTHERS WHO FELT THAT THE INCULCATION OF ISLAMIC VALUES IN THE ADMINISTRATION MEANT THE WEARING OF CADOR, BUT BECAUSE OF THEIR SALARIES, WERE STILL PREPARED TO WORK IN THE OFFICE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THESE GROUPS ALSO DID NOT AT ALL PAY ATTENTION TO THE QUESTION OF TRUST, DISCIPLINE, LOYALTY AND OTHER VALUES, AS IF THESE WERE ALL WORLDLY VALUES AND THEREFORE NOT SPECIFICALLY ISLAMIC VALUES.

"ISLAMIC VALUES, THEY SAY, ARE THOSE THAT SEPARATE THE MUSLIMS FROM THE NON-MUSLIMS," HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT DESPITE THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH DEVIATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE WITH ITS EFFORTS TO INJECT ISLAMIC VALUES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

THE INJECTING OF THESE VALUES WOULD HELP TO MOULD AN ADMINISTRATION THAT WAS MORE EFFECTIVE AND MORE JUST, HE ADDED.

ALL THE PEOPLE, WHATEVER THEIR CREED OR RELIGION, WOULD BENEFIT FROM AN ADMINISTRATION BASED ON ISLAMIC VALUES, HE SAID.

"ALL EFFORTS TO SUBVERT THIS AIM (OF INJECTING ISLAMIC VALUES) WILL FAIL, GOD WILLING," HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO HIT OUT AT THOSE WHO HURLED IRRESPONSIBLE CRITICISMS AGAINST SLOGANS CREATED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD ALSO NOT BE OBSESSED WITH SAYING +WORDS ARE NOT THE SAME AS ACTION+.

SUCH AN ATTITUDE WOULD ONLY HAMPER EFFORTS TO CREATE A BETTER SOCIETY, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT WHATEVER WAS WRONG SHOULD BE EXPOSED AND RECTIFIED BUT THIS SHOULD NOT BE AN EXCUSE FOR ANYONE NOT TO FOLLOW GOOD EXAMPLES.

"THROW AWAY THE DIRTY AND TAKE THE CLEAN," HE SAID.

-- BERNAMA 1108/LK