

MAHATHIR-CERAMAH

BM

84

KOTA BAHARU, SEPT. 14 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY REGRETTED THE PAS DEFIANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT BAN ON OPEN POLITICAL CERAMAHS AND ITS TACTIC OF TURNING THE TALKS INTO RELIGIOUS SESSIONS TO FOOL THE POLICE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THEY STILL HELD CERAMAHS BUT UNDER THE GUISE OF RELIGIOUS SESSIONS AND WHEN THE POLICE APPEARED WOULD TURN THE PROCEEDINGS INTO YASSIN READING SESSIONS.

+ONCE AGAIN THEY ARE USING RELIGION AS A FRONT TO COMMIT AN OFFENCE AGAINST THE LAW,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER HAVING CLOSED-DOOR DISCUSSIONS WITH UMNO DIVISIONAL LEADERS IN KELANTAN HERE.

ON ALLEGATIONS OF A SIMILAR TRANSGRESSION AGAINST THE BAN BY UMNO, HE SAID UMNO DID NOT PRACTISE +DOUBLE STANDARDS+ BUT BECAUSE PAS WAS FREELY FLOUTING THE LAW, UMNO DID NOT SEE WHY IT SHOULD BE RESTRICTED.

+IF THE POLICE CANNOT DETAIN PAS PEOPLE WHO GATHER AND THREATEN THEM, THAN THE POLICE SHOULD ALSO REFRAIN FROM ACTING AGAINST UMNO MEMBERS,+ HE ADDED.

ACCORDING TO HIM, PAS' FREQUENT RESORTING TO THE CRY OF +ALLAHUAKBAR+ (GOD IS GREAT) WAS NOT WITH THE INTENTION OF PRAISE OF GOD BUT A TACTIC TO FIRE UP THE SPIRIT OF THOSE ATTENDING ITS CERAMAHS.

+THEY DO THIS JUST TO ADD NOISE AND CONFUSION AT THEIR CERAMAHS AND THEREBY HINDER THE POLICE FROM CARRYING OUT THEIR TASK.+

THIS, HE ADDED, SHOWED HOW UNSCRUPULOUS PAS WAS, THAT IT COULD DARE USE ISLAM TO FURTHER ITS INTERESTS. --BERNAMA