

MAHATHIR-MULLAH - - -

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KOTA BAHARU, S E P T . 14 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY DESCRIBED PAS' ATTEMPT TO SET UP MULLAH ADMINISTRATION IN THE COUNTRY AS A SCHEME DESIGNED TO MAKE THE PARTY THE ABSOLUTE POWER.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT UNDER THE MULLAH SYSTEM, IT COULD ISSUE FATWAS (RULINGS) AND METE OUT PUNISHMENT AT ITS OWN DISCRETION WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE PRESIDENT., PRIME MINISTER OR WHOEVER WAS THE AUTHORITY IN THE COUNTRY.

+BY BECOMING MULLAHS, THEY CAN LAY DOWN FATWAS AND ISSUE SENTENCES AND EXECUTE: THE SENTENCES THEMSELVES, + HE ADDED.

+THEY FEEL THAT UNDER THE SYSTEM, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE POWERLESS TO ACT WITHOUT FIRST GETTING THEIR VIEWS AND APPROVAL. +

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, IS HERE FOR CLOSED-DOOR TALKS WITH 600 KELANTAN UMNO LEADERS AND A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING WITH THE STATE UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEE.

THE VISIT IS PART OF HIS SERIES OF TOURS TO THE STATES TO BRIEF UMNO LEADERS. THERE ON THE DANGER POSED BY THE PAS ATTACKS AGAINST UMNO LATELY.

HE STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT ACCEPT THE SETTING UP OF A MULLAH SYSTEM BECAUSE MULLAHS NEEDED TO BE PEOPLE HIGHLY LEARNED IN ISLAM AND PAS DID NOT QUALIFY IN THIS REGARD.

HE ALSO HIT OUT AT PAS FOR ARBITRARILY ISSUING FATWAS ON WHAT WAS HALAL OR HARAM.

+THEY ARE RECEIVING ALLOWANCES ALTHOUGH THESE ARE SAID TO BE HARAM. THEY DO NOT OPEN ACCOUNTS IN THE ISLAMIC BANK BUT IN OTHER BANKS THEY SAY ARE HALAL WHEN PREVIOUSLY THEY HAD CONDEMNED THE BANKS FOR PRACTISING RIBA (INTEREST).

+WHAT THEY TERMED AS HALAL TODAY BECOMES HARAM TOMORROW. IN SHORT, THEY CHANGE THE RULES AS THEY LIKE. +

HE SAID THE PARTY ALSO CALLED ALL ITS MEMBERS ULAMAKS (THEOLOGIAN), EVEN THE THREE PAS LEADERS DETAINED UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT SOME TIME AGO WHO KNEW NOTHING ABOUT RELIGION.

+I KNOW THE BACKGROUND OF THE THREE, BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO RAISE THEIR PALMS TO PRAY TO GOD TO PROTECT THE THREE WHEN THEY WERE UNDER DETENTION. + --BERNAMA