

Mahathir: Police to act if PAS has hit squad

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By AZMI M. ANSHAR

KOTA BARU, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad warned PAS today that the police will take action if the party had set up an assassination squad to kill certain Umno leaders.

The Prime Minister said that while he did not have proof that such a squad existed, he had come to know of the matter following an admittance by PAS leaders themselves that they had formed a "suicide squad."

Dr Mahathir, however, said that "I will get further details to find out if the story has any truth or it is just one of the lies of which PAS leaders are so prone."

A Bernama report had said that a list containing the names of five Umno leaders had been given out to hitmen by PAS.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, was speaking to reporters after a closed-door meeting with, about 600 Kelantan Umno divisional leaders at the Mara auditorium here.

He said that he did not know how the assassination contracts were assigned or whether he was on the hit list because "I have not seen the list."

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"They (PAS) say that spilling the blood of Umno people is *hatal* for them and that killing Umno people is *not a crime* in their eyes," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the matter clearly showed how far PAS had deviated from the teachings of Islam and he urged Muslims to beware of the danger posed to their religious faith by PAS' deliberate misinterpretation of Islam for its own interests.

"There is a danger of the faith and belief of Muslims in this country being undermined.

"They may believe the religious distortions propagated by PAS leaders whose knowledge of Islam is so shallow but who are always ready to misuse the religion for their own gains," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that PAS leaders were so desperate they even threw out the old leaders like Datuk Asri Muda and Datuk Haji Mohamed Nasir and recruited incompetent new personalities with the result that their struggle had now changed in nature and become a danger to the country.

He said that the new group of PAS leaders, when compared to former leaders of the party, had overstepped the bounds of common decency and rational thinking.