

Be patient, religious teachers advised

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ALOR STAR, Fri. — Religious teachers in the country have been urged to exercise patience with regard to the problems pertaining to their profession.

The Prime Minister said that the Government was aware of their problems and was taking steps to overcome them.

"But as in any struggle, you win some, you lose some. When we do not get what we want, we should not retaliate but should instead be patient," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"The Government has never tried to cause hardship to anyone. If problems can be solved by merely saying 'Yes', then it would have solved all the problems.

Slacken

"Solving problems takes time, and the people should bear with the Government," he said when opening the West Malaysia Religious Teachers' Union annual meeting this morning.

He advised the teachers not to slacken in their duties just because their problems had not been resolved.

"The religious teachers have an important task to carry out. The character and values of the fu-

ture generations depend on what and how they teach the children.

Earlier, in his speech, union president Damahhuri Haji Hussin said that the Government had failed to solve several problems faced by the religious teachers since the last decade.

Training

He said the promotion scheme for them was poor and a large number of religious teachers in the B1, B2 and B3 categories were waiting to be upgraded to the C2 category for the past 15 years.

"There are also those in the C4 category who have not been promoted to the C2 category although they have attended training programmes.

"The teachers in Johore are still waiting for their housing allowances, while those in Malacca who retired this year are not getting their pensions.

"Those in Sabah and Sarawak now found themselves earning less when the administration of the service was transferred from the State to the Federal Government.

He appealed to the Prime Minister to help solve the problems.

"If there was, the first person to use this knowledge would be the Prophet. But as we know, the Prophet was badly injured in the war in Uhud (Perang Uhud). Even Saidina Hamzah was killed in the war.

"There is no such thing as being invincible in Islam. Anyone who believes in such things has deviated from the true teachings of Islam," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the one who should be held responsible for the deaths of 18 people, including four police personnel, and injury to the many in the Kampung Memali incident was he who had been spreading false teachings in the area.

"I do not deny that Ibrahim Libya had much knowledge in religion. But knowledge alone is insufficient for one to be a religious teacher.

"He must be responsible and inculcate good values in his students," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said that Ibrahim Libya's followers had ambushed the police using shotguns.

"The shots were meant to kill. There were no warning shots.

"Had there been any warning shots, the police could have taken cover and would not have been killed or injured in the incident.

'Ibrahim told followers they could not be injured'

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ALOR STAR, Fri. — Ibrahim Libya was propagating false teachings in Kampung Memali, Baling, despite having a good knowledge of true Islamic teachings, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

He said that clear proof of this was that he had convinced the people of his invincibility.

"The people were so convinced of his power to make them invincible too that they dared attack the police using only swords and parangs.

"Apparently, Ibrahim Libya had given them amulets to wear and convinced them that bullets would not harm them," said the Prime Minister.

Opening the West Malaysia Religious Teachers Union's 13th AGM, he said that there was no such thing as invincibility in Islam.