

D706

U E258 AAE
MAHATHIR-KASSIM
BM

86
BUTTERWORTH, JUNE 26 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY DECLINED TO COMMENT MUCH ON KASSIM AHMAD'S BOOK ON THE HADIS WHICH VARIOUS QUARTERS INCLUDING UMNO DIVISIONS WANT BANNED.

QUERIED BY REPORTERS ON UMNO'S STAND ON THE CONTROVERSIAL BOOK -- +HADIS: SATU PENILAIAN SEMULA+ -- THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IF IT WAS TO BE BANNED, IT SHOULD BE ON A COMMON BASIS.

HE SAID THAT IF THE BOOK WAS BANNED BECAUSE IT WAS CAUSING A SPLIT IN MUSLIM UNITY, THEN ALL THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN DIVIDING THE MUSLIMS SHOULD ALSO BE +BANNED.+

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE PUSAT INSAF DIRI DADAH REHABILITATION CENTRE IN BUKIT MERTAJAM WHEN HE WAS ASKED ABOUT UMNO'S STAND ON THE ISSUE FOLLOWING VIEWS THAT IF UMNO DID NOT WORK TOWARDS BANNING THE BOOK, THEN IT REFLECTED ACCEPTANCE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THE PARTY DID NOT HAVE THE POWER TO BAN THE BOOK BUT HE DID NOT THINK THAT IT ACCEPTED THE BOOK. -- MORE
1854MST 26 06 86

U E259 AAE
MAHATHIR-KASSIM 2 BUTTERWORTH

ENCIK KASSIM, THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTAI SOSIALIS RAKYAT MALAYSIA (PSRM), WAS ACCEPTED INTO UMNO RECENTLY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE RELIGIOUS DIVISION OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT HAD MADE SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS TO THE HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY ON THE ACTION WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN REGARDING THE BOOK.

ASKED WHETHER HE HAD READ THE BOOK, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE ONLY READ THE SYNOPSIS IN THE NEWSPAPERS.

ON THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION, HE DECLINED TO INDICATE WHEN IT WOULD BE CALLED.

ASKED WHETHER THE ELECTION WOULD BE HELD BEFORE MUSLIMS LEAVE FOR PILGRIMAGE, HE SAID THE PILGRIMAGE WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN VOTING.

ON THE BARISAN NASIONAL MANIFESTO FOR THE ELECTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS GENERALLY BASED ON THE DESIRE TO SERVE THE PEOPLE. -- BERNAMA

1857MST 26 06 86