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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 28 (BERNAMA) -- GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATIONS ON APOSTASY AMONG MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY HAVE REVEALED THAT NOT EVEN 50 HAVE CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HOWEVER, THE ACTIVITIES OF CHURCHES OF SEVERAL OF THESE MUSLIMS HAD BEEN HIGHLIGHTED UNTIL IT APPEARED AS IF THOUSANDS OF MUSLIMS HAD EMBRACED CHRISTIANITY, HE SAID IN A STATEMENT WHICH HE READ OUT IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT.

AS RESULT OF THESE STORIES THAT HAD BEEN DELIBERATELY BLOWN UP, THE RELATIONS AMONG THE RACES HAD BECOME TENSE, HE SAID IN HIS REPORT TO THE HOUSE ON THE DETENTIONS OF SEVERAL PEOPLE YESTERDAY AND TODAY UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT (ISA).

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SUBJECT OF MUSLIMS RENOUNCING ISLAM FOR CHRISTIANITY HAD BEEN DELIBERATELY BLOWN UP BY SEVERAL PEOPLE TO EXPLOIT MUSLIM SUSPICIONS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHRISTIANS.

THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT THE INSTIGATIONS BY CERTAIN PEOPLE HAD CONTRIBUTED TO INTENSIFYING TENSION AMONG THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY, HE SAID. -- MORE
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HE SAID THAT SINCE THE TIME OF THE BRITISH, CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES WERE NOT ALLOWED TO PROPAGATE THE RELIGION AMONG MUSLIMS.

THE BRITISH HAD RESPECTED THE AGREEMENT ON THIS WITH THE MALAY RULERS.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION HAD LEGAL PROVISIONS PROHIBITING THE SPREAD OF OTHER RELIGIONS AMONG MUSLIMS.

+WE BELIEVE THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AND THEIR MISSIONARIES ARE AWARE OF THIS PROHIBITION AND WILL NOT DO ANYTHING THEY KNOW WILL THREATEN PEACE IN THIS COUNTRY,+ HE ADDED.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH AUTHORITIES WERE CAREFUL IN THE MATTER AND DID NOT TRY TO CONDUCT THEIR MISSIONARY WORK AMONG THE MUSLIMS BUT UNFORTUNATELY THERE WAS ONE CHURCH THAT TRIED TO TO SO.

+THEY WERE NOT VERY SUCCESSFUL. ONLY A FEW PEOPLE WHO WERE BORN MUSLIMS WERE INFLUENCED BY THEM AND THESE ARE PEOPLE WITH PERSONAL PROBLEMS OR OPPORTUNISTIC PEOPLE,+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA
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