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ATTENTION EDITORS: Correction

In item +Mahathir-Arqam+, please read fourth graf as... Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who said he was not chairman of the council,... and not as sent. Here is the corrected version.

MAHATHIR EXPLAINS BAN ON ARQAM ACTIVITIES

Mahathir-Arqam

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KUCHING, Sept 13, (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government decided to ban activities of the Darul Arqam movement on the advice of the National Council for Islamic Affairs.

He said the council, made up of ulamaks, found that the teachings of the movement were contrary to Islam.

The government, being responsible for seeing that deviationist teachings were not propogated, decided to ban the movement's activities based on advice of the council, he told reporters at the Kuching International Airport here before returning to Kuala Lumpur after a two-day visit to Sarawak.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who said he was not chairman of the council, said the movement had deviated from the aspect of the teachings of +Aurad Muhammadiyah+ and those of its leader Ustaz Ashaari.

The Director-general of the Islamic Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department, Haji Zainal Abidin Abdul Kadir, announced on Wednesday that ceramah and other activities of the movement were banned in government premises.

The Islamic Religious Councils in several states have observed the ban.

Clarifying newspaper reports that the government would review road toll, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the government's stand on the matter was clear -- that toll must be paid. -- Bernama