

Arqam teachings contrary to Islam, says Dr M

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KLJCHING, Fri. — 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 propagated, 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 Muhammadiah" and those of its leader Ustaz Ashaari.

The Director-general of the Islamic Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's De-

partment, 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.

Information Ministry Secretary General Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman said today RTM will continue to air songs by Arqam nasyid group although the Government has banned certain activities of the religious movement.

He said it was too early to decide on the matter as it needed to be studied carefully.

The ban on Arqam activities did not include economic activities, he told a Press conference here.

Datuk Fauzi said Arqam leaders should meet the authorities for the sake of Islamic unity in the country.

He also said no decision had been made to introduce another television channel, the fourth in the country. — Bernama