

Dr Mahathir: We may ban books by Darul Arqam

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — The Government will ban and confiscate all books and publications of the Darul Arqam movement if it continues to practise and propagate deviationist teachings.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that all other literature not owned or published by the movement, but considered deviationist, may also be banned.

“The government feels that the movement practises deviationist teachings, and if we allow such teachings to continue, Muslims will be further confused and deviate from actual Islamic teachings.”

Dr Mahathir said this after opening the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilisation (ISTAC).

The Prime Minister added that besides the ban, the government will also explain to the people the activities of the missionary movement so that they (the people) are not further confused.

“Many Muslims are still influenced by Arqam teachings, believing that what is being taught by them is based on Islamic teachings. If we let this continue, the people will be further confused.”

Dr Mahathir said the Government would also not hesitate to take the necessary action against the movement if it continued with its deviationist teachings.

The Prime Minister had chaired the 35th meeting of the National Islamic Religious Affairs Council at his office here earlier in the day.

The meeting discussed, among other things, measures to further strengthen Islamic unity in the country. The missionary activities of the Darul Arqam movement were also discussed.

The Darul Arqam problem was among issues discussed at the 35th National Religious Council meeting at the Prime Minister's Office.

Dr Mahathir chaired the meeting, which also discussed steps to strengthen unity in the Islamic community and missionary activities.

A statement by the Prime Minister's Office said the council endorsed the various actions taken by the Government to forge unity and reduce confusion among Muslims.

The meeting also discussed ways to upgrade the progress of the Islamic community.