

CNS0412

R GE 16-03 00165 EA930

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GOVERNMENT AWAITING REPORT ON TABLIGH ACTIVITIES

Mahathir-Tabligh

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ALOR SETAR, March 16, (Bernama) -- The federal government will wait for a report from the Pusat Islam on its study of the Tabligh activities before it decides whether to ban it or not, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He added that the government would also obtain advice from its religious advisers on whether it needed to restrict the entry of Tabligh ulamas from India and Pakistan.

Speaking to reporters on arrival at the Sultan Abdul Halim Airport from Kuala Lumpur, he said Tabligh teachings had caused many of its followers to neglect their work but instead follow the teachings of the group to devote their time fully to worship.

He believed the Tabligh activities could hamper achievement of objectives of Vision 2020 if the movement was able to attract a large number of followers in this country. -- more

▼16/03/19-44MST

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Mahathir-Tabligh 2 Alor Setar

Dr Mahathir also said that although the government would not lodge a protest or take action over an Australian-made film, +Turtle Beach+, the screening of the film would certainly make it difficult for Malaysians to be on good terms with Australians.

The film, scheduled for screening in Australia on Thursday, depicts the alleged cruel treatment of illegal immigrants by Malaysians.

He added, however, that the Australian government was not involved in the privately produced film based on a book written by the wife of an Australian diplomat who served in Malaysia.

He said: +It's very difficult for us to be nice to the Australians as they are so inclined to telling lies and insulting those they claim as friends. If it's like this, then we'll find it hard to have good relations with them.

+They don't understand that if they want good reaction, they must behave well, otherwise, it will be hard for us to be nice to them.+

Dr Mahathir said the culture of Australians was highly unsuited to Asian culture and this difference made it difficult for Australians to be considered Asians. -- more

▼16/03/19-57MST

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Mahathir-Tabligh 3 (last) Alor Setar

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia would not ape other countries in resolving the issue of the Bar Council's refusal to recognise Lord President Tun Abdul Hamid Omar.

He added that the government always gave freedom to the judiciary but the Bar Council did not wish it to enjoy such independence.

Dr Mahathir and his wife Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali are here to break fast with the people at Masjid Kampung Melele in Tunjang, near here.

Dr Siti Hasmah, who is president of the Association of Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers (Bakti), handed over Hari Raya gifts to the less fortunate at their residence at Titi Gajah here. -- Bernama

▼16/03/20-08MST