

PM: Misleading reports on State

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By Saiful Azhar Abdullah

JITRA, Sat. — The foreign media is portraying the Kelantan Government as a moderate Government that had never intended to suppress anyone, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said Western writers had visited Kelantan and come up with reports that portrayed the State Government as a good one.

These foreign elements wanted Malaysia to suffer similar problems endured by countries like Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and the then Soviet Union, the Prime Minister said at the opening of the Kubang Pasu Umno delegates' meeting at Dewan Jitra here.

He is also Kubang Pasu division chairman.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff, Dr Mahathir's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali and several State Umno liaison committee members also attended the opening.

Dr Mahathir criticised Pas for welcoming the irresponsible actions of these foreign writers although at one time the party had branded the same writers as being anti-Islam.

He said Pas' change of stand towards the foreign media was merely because they were writing positive reports about them.

"We must realise that the reports in the Western media are actually intended at creating disunity so that the country will be split like the former socialist countries.

"Barisan Nasional and Umno have tried to co-operate with Pas but the party refused to openly recognise

Umno as a party that champions Islam.

"Their supporters continue to label us as anti-Islam," Dr Mahathir said.

He added that some Pas supporters felt that by supporting Pas, they were championing Islam.

This perception was the result of attempts by the party to indoctrinate its members to consider Pas as Islam and vice-versa.

The Prime Minister said he was grateful that this belief was not widespread in Kedah.

Dr Mahathir said there were criticisms against him that he did not respect the *ulamak*.

"We respect *ulamak* who do not have political interests. It is a little bit difficult for me to recognise *ulamak* like Subky Latif and Mohamad Sabu (Pas leaders)," he added.

Dr Mahathir also reminded the members of the weaknesses of democracy.

"Democracy, if not properly organised, could lead to chaos as experienced by other countries," he added.

Dr Mahathir also advised the members to learn from the 1987 incident which led to the old Umno being deregistered.

He told them to strive to strengthen the party instead of bickering among themselves for positions in the party.

"If Umno is stable and strong, the country will be strong and we can never be threatened by outside elements."

He said political stability would lead to stability in the economy and social life.

"Only then can we achieve the status of being a developed nation," he added.