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MAHATHIR SAYS NO NEED FOR MEETING WITH KIT SIANG

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ALOR SETAR, Aug 16 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today there is no need for him to meet DAP Secretary-General Lim Kit Siang to discuss his allegation yesterday that the DAP does not like Islam.

However the Prime Minister felt it would suffice for the Opposition Leader to write a letter to him.

Dr Mahathir said it was no use meeting Kit Siang because the attitude of his party was clear.

+I have never heard him complain if Chinese abandoned Taoism or Buddhism but if a Chinese accepted Islam, he will spare no effort to look for the person and incite the person to leave Islam,+ he told reporters here when commenting on the statement by Lim in Ipoh today that he was seeking an appointment with Dr Mahathir over the Prime Minister's statement on Islam and the DAP.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters on arrival at the Sultan Abdul Halim Airport here to attend the wedding of the Kedah Menteri Besar's son tonight. -- more

♥16/08/18-33MST

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Mahathir 2 Alor Setar

+Everyone knows, not just this time. We have never heard him do anything about Chinese people leaving their religion to embrace other religions,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir said he was not angry because the Chinese were embracing Christianity but the DAP should display a just attitude.

+If don't agree, don't agree to all. Not just one religion,+ he said.

The Prime Minister also said he not heard Kit Siang's views on the Serbian atrocities against Bosnian Muslims.

+So, if Muslims are oppressed it does not matter, if they are non-Muslims then it becomes an issue,+ Dr Mahathir said. -- more.

♥16/08/18-48MST

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Mahathir 3 (last) Alor Setar

Dr Mahathir said the DAP did not take any action when followers of other religions coax the Chinese to join their religion and many who were underaged had joined other religions.

On the DAP's wish to hold discussions with him +in a rational way+, the Prime Minister said: +No need in a rational way.. he has never been rational...he is merely playing on racial and religious sentiments.+

The Prime Minister also said the government would abide by the decision of bona fide experts on whether the Asian Rare Earth (ARE) factory in Bukit Merah, Ipoh, was dangerous or not to the local residents.

He said the factory had been inspected several times by experts and some experts had said that the ARE factory was not dangerous. -- Bernama