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Mahathir-religion

DO NOT USE RELIGION FOR SELF-INTEREST, SAYS MAHATHIR

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JITRA, March 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight reminded certain people not to use Islam for their political interests.

Such acts would only cause disunity among the Muslims, he said when breaking the fast at Masjid Abidin, Sungai Laka, Changlun, near here.

The split in the community was not due to Islam but was caused by people who used the religion to convince the Malays who were so true to Islam that they could not refuse any demand made in its name, he said.

He said some of these people were good in issuing hadis and decrees in Arabic and were prepared to say anything in the name of Islam when the religion did not demand it.

"If we want to talk about Islam don't let us relate it to self-interest because that is not the way and can instead disunite us," he said.

When self-interest was brought in, religion would be set aside because when the religious laws ran counter to their wishes they could not accept the religious ideology, he added. -- more

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Mahathir-religion 2 (last) Jitra

"For example, when religion says no human is above the Islamic law or that there is no immunity for anyone, these quarters are prepared to defend the immunity of certain people solely for their political interests," he said.

He said the people should be wary of these quarters who claimed that that they struggled for the religion as if other people did not.

He said the government also struggled to develop the nation as required by Islam and had succeeded in doing so to the extent that Malaysia was known as a successful Islamic country although only 56 per cent of its population was Muslim.

He said the people in the country lived in peace compared with Muslims in other countries who were oppressed by the greedy among them.

Dr Mahathir said the community was fortunate because although there were quarters out to split them because these quarters could not make any headway.

Present were Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmanh Mohamd Ali, Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri haji Osman Aroff and Perlis Menteri Besar Dr Abdul hamid Pawanteh.
-- Bernama

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