

PM: Groups using Islam to deceive people

CHANGLOON (Kedah), Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today certain quarters are using Islam to deceive the people, especially the Malays, into thinking they are the only legitimate "fighters" of the religion in the country.

He said these groups were using Islam to gain political mileage.

The Prime Minister was speaking after breaking fast with about 1,000 people, the majority of whom are villagers, at Kampung Titi Kerbau, about 45km from here. Also present were Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff and his Perlis counterpart, Dr Abdul Hamid Pawanteh.

Dr Mahathir said these groups, out of greed for power to rule the country, were out to split Muslims by pitting them against the Government.

Citing the "immunity" issue concerning a certain Ruler, he said the groups held steadfastly that the Ruler was not bound by Islamic rules although they preached differently.

"In one instance, they claimed everyone was equal in the eyes of Islam. However, they sing a different tune when it comes to the legal immunity of the Ruler.

"They also go around claiming they are stronger than the Government in upholding Islam," he said.

Dr Mahathir said these irresponsible quarters, being power-greedy, were merely out to cause a rift among Muslims.

Dr Mahathir said Muslims and Malaysians should safeguard the peace and harmony they were enjoying and not let their guard down against those who were out to stir unrest and havoc among the people.

Earlier in Alor Star, Dr Mahathir said it was up to the concerned parties to establish the truth about Arau MP Shahidan Kassim's claim on the ascension to the throne by the Sultan of Kelantan.

The Prime Minister said he did not know whether the claim was true and it was up to the parties whether they wanted to determine the authenticity of Shahidan's claim.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters at the Sultan Abdul Halim airport in Kepala Batas here.

He arrived with his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

Asked for his view about the validity of the ascension

to the throne by the Sultan of Kelantan, Dr Mahathir said:

"I do not have any views on the matter. That is what happens when one makes allegations on certain matters. This is the consequence."

Asked whether the Kelantan Government should investigate the claims, Dr Mahathir declined to comment.

The issue was raised by Shahidan during the debate on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1993 on Wednesday.

He questioned the validity of the appointment of Sultan Ismail Petra as the Sultan of Kelantan.

Shahidan alleged that Sultan Ismail was not the rightful heir to the throne as he was the son from the marriage of the late Sultan Ibrahim to another woman, a commoner.

He said the rightful heir to the throne was Tengku Ibrahim of Petra Finance, the son of Tengku Indera Petra, the elder brother of the late Sultan Yahya Petra — Sultan Ismail's father.

Shahidan said Tengku Indera Petra was the son of the Sultanah while Sultan Yahya Petra's mother was a commoner.