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Mahathir-power

PAS WILL ABUSE ITS POWER IF IT RULES THE COUNTRY, SAYS MAHATHIR

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KOTA BAHARU March 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad did not dismiss the possibility that PAS will abuse its power if it rules the country as the party has proven that it is capable of doing so.

"If the party has the authority over the police, it will surely abuse its power to arrest people at will," he said before the breaking of the fast at the residence of Youth and Sports Minister Senator Datuk Annuar Musa at Bukit Marak here.

Dr Mahathir said that while the party was prepared to sack an imam who was not consistent with its wishes, "what more if it has authority over the police and the army."

"Umno is not like that ... we can take various action but we do not take action unless permitted by the laws of the country," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said that Umno does not separate religion from politics but separate religion from party politics. -- more

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He said that there should not be disunity among Muslims through parties 'because "there should not be any other parties other than Umno."

Dr Mahathir said that the government could not allow 'the people to be cheated by PAS' action in using Islam to have power.

He said that the people should be grateful because Umno, a party that upholds the teachings of Islam, could rule the country.

Annuar said that Kelantan imams should advise the people to practise Islam during the fasting month and not discredit the Federal Government.

The criticisms against the government were planned, he added.

He said at today's Friday prayers, the state authorities sent an imam from a different mukim to preach at the Bukit Marak mosque and his sermon reviled the government.

Annuar said this proved that the state authorities had no respect for the country's leadership. -- Bernama