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Mahathir-PAS

MAHATHIR EXPRESSES REGRET OVER NIK AZIZ' STATEMENT

ALOR SETAR, April 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today PAS which has accused Umno of practising the spirit of nationalism is actually more nationalistic and more inclined towards narrow parochialism.

"(Datuk) Nik Aziz (Nik Mat) is more nationalistic than we..... he is actually not only nationalistic but more inclined towards parochialism....everything to him is Kelantan, talks only about Kelantan."

"Nik Aziz' statement reflected the party's narrow views and obsession with the party. When we are obsessed with our own group, we are in no position at all to think anymore," he said.

Nik Aziz was reported to have said in Kota Baharu yesterday that PAS was unable to foster political links with Umno because of their different political struggles.

He had said that PAS was a party founded on Islam while Umno stuck to its nationalistic principles and this difference led to the break-up of ties previously.

"Nik Aziz never at all seems to see the things we have done for Islam. What has he done for Islam?" asked Dr Mahathir when visiting the Islamic abattoir at the Kompleks Jihad Basmi Kemiskinan built by the Kedah Government at Paya Pahlawan near here.

The Prime Minister advised the PAS Ulama Chief not to hurl accusations against Umno but to review his own party's struggle to determine whether its struggle was actually based on Islamic principles.

He said Islam exhorted its followers to establish cordial links among themselves and not to give rise situations which could disrupt their unity.

"Before the coming of Islam, the Arabs were divided into many tribes and because they were too attached to their own tribes, whenever they meet members of another tribe they will fight and kill for no reason at all."

"Because they were obsessed they had to fight to the point when they could no longer think...no longer able to ask themselves as to why they had to fight among themselves."

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno President, said the situation was the same in PAS whose members were so obsessed with their party that they were no longer able to accept the views of others despite the good done by the other party.

The Prime Minister said Nik Aziz was only good at talking and never practised what he preached. "I wish to ask him ... what has he done for Islam apart from dividing Muslims."

"I feel sad because before PAS existed, Muslims in Malaysia were not disunited, we were one... as members of the sunnah waljamaah, one religion, one sect of the Shafie. PAS came and then accused Umno members of not being Islamic."

Dr Mahathir said in his view, it was PAS which was not Islamic for implementing policies which were opposed to Islamic principles particularly through its actions which had weakened the unity of Muslims in this country.

"Don't be over zealous in saying Umno is a nationalistic party when PAS itself is nationalistic. If it is not nationalistic why is it operating only in Malaysia."

"Go lah to Afghanistan, Pakistan and become leaders there. The Islamic World is vast from the Philippines to Morocco.....all is Islamic World," Dr

Mahathir said.

Dr Mahathir said PAS should accept the fact that the Umno led government had done much good in enhancing the teachings of Islam and this Kompleks Jihad Membasmi Kemiskinan was one fine example which was in line with the requirements of Islam which urged its followers to be concerned about the poor and the unfortunate.

The Prime Minister commended the Kedah Government which built the complex as it was a positive approach in efforts to eradicate poverty and look after the less fortunate.

The complex was mooted by Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid as part of efforts to upgrade the socio-economic status of poor Muslims in the state.

The complex will also have a recreational centre, a small and medium scale industrial site for agro-based industries, the handicraft industry and camps for Muslim worship.

A total of 1,000 head of cattle were slaughtered at the abattoir for the Hari Raya Haji. The Prime Minister himself slaughtered one cow in sacrifice at the centre in conjunction with Hari Raya Haji.

To mark his visit, Dr Mahathir planted a melia tree while Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali a teak tree. -- BERNAMA

MFJ AAM