

04 NOV 1997

Parliament-Ulama

NO STATEMENT WAS EVER MADE ON DISBANDMENT OF ULAMA ASSOCIATION

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad did not make any statement calling for the disbandment of the Ulama Association, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

The Parliamentary Secretary in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Haji Muhamad Abdullah said the Ulama Association was registered under the Societies Act 1973 and it could be dissolved at the request of the association itself or because of any violation of the Act.

Haji Muhamad said this when replying to Haji Bunyamin Yaakob (PAS-Bachok) who wanted a clarification as to whether Dr Mahathir was serious in wanting its dissolution and what was the criteria used in arriving at the decision.

Mohd Isa Sabu (BN-Kangar) said the words attributed to the Prime Minister were a political slander against Dr Mahathir.

He also wanted to know whether action against such slanderers could be taken under the Internal Security Act.

Muhamad said the government did not consider it that serious to take action at that level.

"At times there are some leaders in the ulama association who deviate from the objectives of the association and some of them make statements which hurt the feelings of government leaders," he said.

"They should in fact discharge their actual duties. However some are found to be supporting others and need some criticism in the interest of the association itself," he said.

He said if there was any association which attempted to disrupt national unity, the government would have no alternative but to take action through established procedures. -- BERNAMA

WNZ AAM