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PM: Pas responsible for dividing Malays

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JITRA, Sat. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Pas is not an Islamic party, but a nationalist one and responsible for dividing the Malays.

Expressing his unhappiness with Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat for branding Umno a nationalist party, the Prime Minister called on the Pas leader and the party to examine themselves on what they had done for Islam and the development of the Muslims.

"What has Pas done for the Muslims? There's nothing they have done for the Muslims ... they are a parochial party.

"Pas will never acknowledge the good deeds we have done for the Muslims and the country. They are only obsessed with themselves," he added.

"It hurts when I read in the newspapers today that Nik Aziz said Pas would not join Umno because it is a nationalist party," he said in his speech during his visit to Kompleks Jihad Membasmi Kemiskinan at Paya Pahlawan.

Nik Aziz had told reporters at his residence at Pulau Melaka, Kota Baru, yesterday, that Pas could not co-operate politically with Umno because of the latter's nationalist policy which was not based on Islamic principles.

Nik Aziz said Pas could have economic ties with Umno but not political ones unless its (Umno's) policy was Islamic.

He had also said Pas must have some form of ties with those whose politics were not Islamic so that the party could make them understand Islam.

Dr Mahathir said: "Pas is a Kelantanese nationalist. They are not even accepted by the people of Terengganu. Nik Aziz himself could not agree with (deputy Pas president) Abdul Hadi Awang.

"Examine yourself first before saying bad things about others because you yourself could be worse than others," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Pas was only good at making empty promises to its members and disuniting the Muslims.

The Prime Minister said before Pas was established, the Malays were united.

"The division among the Malays began when Pas came into the picture and branded Umno members as un-Islamic," he added.

Dr Mahathir also criticised Pas for using the Quran to achieve its political agenda.

The Prime Minister said Pas could not run away from the fact that it was a nationalist party because it was only active in Malaysia.

"If Pas is not a nationalist party, why don't they go and promote themselves in Afghanistan and Iran?

"Don't just demonstrate in Malaysia ... They are demonstrating here because there are no Jews to shoot them ... if they are brave why don't they demonstrate elsewhere," he added.

Dr Mahathir said Pas should learn from Umno on how it had contributed towards Islam.

The setting up of the Kompleks Jihad Membasmi Kemiskinan by the Kedah Government was a testimony of how Umno had struggled for the Muslims, he added.

"Islam has made it obligatory for Muslims to help their poor brothers and that's what we are doing today," he added.

Dr Mahathir praised Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid and the State

Government for coming up with the project.

Also present were Dr Mahathir's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Sanusi's wife, Datin Seri Nila Inangda Manyam Keumala and State executive councillors.

Earlier, Sanusi said the complex would also help in tackling inflation as it could be utilised to stockpile food.

On his arrival, Dr Mahathir was briefed on the project by the special assistant to the Kedah State Development Corporation chairman, Hamdan Sulaiman.

Hamdan said 1,000 head of cattle reserved for Korban (sacrificial) purposes for Hari Raja Aidiladha had been slaughtered at the complex.

The complex, built on a 111-ha site, cost about RM12 million and is managed by the KSDC's subsidiary company, Urus Edar Adha Sdn Bhd.

It is also the second largest after the one in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

The programme, a brainchild of Sanusi, aims to use Islamic principles to solve economic problems of Muslims in Kedah.

Meat from cattle slaughtered at the centre will be stored in cold rooms at the complex and distributed to the poor in batches on a weekly basis.

The meat will be distributed to 526 mosques every Friday after Muslims performed their subuh (dawn) prayers.

Several other facilities will also be built at the complex site. It will include a football academy, a mosque, a resource centre, a mini museum, a research centre, a recreational centre, chalets, a floating restaurant, a campsite and a handicraft centre.

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