

28 MAR 1998

DR MAHATHIR SAD OVER KAMPUNG RAWA INCIDENT

JELI, March 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Menteri Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed sadness over the fight over the mosque and temple issue in Kampung Rawa, Pulau Pinang, saying that the matter could have been settled through negotiations.

Fighting over the issue would tarnish the country's image, he told reporters after opening the Jeli Umno division delegates meeting here.

He said such incidents should not recur and urged all parties to resolve problems through negotiations.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who rushed to Pulau Pinang after being informed of the fight between two groups from a mosque and the adjacent Hindu Raja-Raja Maduraiveeran temple in Jalan Patani yesterday, said the issue was settled.

He also said that the government would not hesitate to take action against those who tried to aggravate the situation.

Dr Mahathir, when asked if the tension could have been caused by outsiders, said: "We are still investigating...so far I've yet to receive (the report) so I don't know whether the allegation is true or not." --

BERNAMA

BD MAI JK