

20 SEP 1999

Mahathir-Anwar

ANWAR NUMBER ONE AGITATOR- DR MAHATHIR

KANGAR, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight described his former Deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as an irresponsible number one agitator.

He said Anwar was smart in firing the spirit of his supporters using falsehoods so that they would riot.

"The 1974 Anwar habit is still not lost," he told a People with the Leader Gathering at Stadium Utama here.

In 1974, Anwar incited students to riot claiming that a boy in Baling had died of starvation when it was not at all true, the Prime Minister said.

This time he had incited his supporters to riot claiming that he was being poisoned, he added.

"Anwar is a number one agitator. He himself has run away leaving others to face the consequences of his incitement," Dr Mahathir said.

Anwar also had before this incited his supporters to break the windows of the Umno headquarters building in Kuala Lumpur and set fire to the Prime Minister's official residence, he said.

Yesterday, thousands of Anwar supporters rioted near the National Mosque and injured three policemen.

The Prime Minister said the opposition's move to use the mosque to hurl slander against the government and police and also to injure the policemen was an act of sacrilege.

The Prime Minister said the group had no respect for the mosque and turned into a political platform from where it hurled slander and attacked the police with stones.

The Keadilan leaders including Anwar claimed they wanted to see the Rule of Law in this country but they themselves were breaking the law by rioting in Kuala Lumpur, he said.

Dr Mahathir said they had no respect for the law and to them the police force which had all this while made sacrifices in safeguarding the peace and security of this country was only meant for stone throwing and beatings.

Their motorcycles were also burnt down, he said.

"Is such action fair and just," the Prime Minister asked.

Their action was unfair as it caused hardship to traders as their income was affected when they had to stop business out of fear due to the unstable situation.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Barisan Nasional Chairman, criticised PAS supporters for being obsessed with their party and leaders even though publicly they had made mistakes.

Dr Mahathir described the PAS situation now as similar to that during the Assabiah faction when its supporters could not differentiate between the truth and falsehood because they were obsessed with their leaders.

For instance, PAS supporters still held their leaders in high esteem even when they had been willing to work with the devil.

"Their Tok guru is their Prophet. Not wrong even if his wrong. They have deviated. Repent."

"Drop them and take up that is pure and clear. That which is pure and clear is Umno and the dirty and murky one is PAS."

Dr Mahathir then urged the people to compare the achievements of the Barisan Nasional and to what the opposition had done.

He said the opposition parties had not brought any development or progress to the country.

The BN administration was far more efficient than that of the opposition and this could be compared to the situation when the Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) ruled in Sabah and in PAS ruled Kelantan.

Dr Mahathir said the success of Datuk Onn Jaafar in uniting the people and the success of Tunku Abdul Rahman in bringing independence to the country as well as the contributions of Tun Abdul Razak and Tun Hussein Onn towards the country's progress and dignity were made possible through the strong support of the people for the government.

More than 50,000 people attended the gathering.

The Prime Minister is on a two-day visit to Perlis which is the last stop of his nationwide tour.

-- BERNAMA

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