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Attempt to alienate people deliberate, says Razaleigh

KOTA BARU, Wed. - Gua Musang MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah today said the attempt to alienate Muslims from the non-Muslims was a deliberate move by certain quarters to benefit them politically.

He said these quarters felt that the harmonious mixing of the various races with different religious beliefs would undermine them politically.

"That is why deliberate efforts are being made to instil the feelings of hatred and fear as well as the ill-feeling towards socialising, done through the use of the religion.

"There are even schools, specifically for Muslim children's enrolment, where the pupils' minds are influenced and poisoned to cut themselves off from mixing with people of other religious beliefs.

"There is no reason this matter is propagated if not for their parochial political thinking," he told reporters meeting him at his residence today.

He said this when asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement reported today that the fear of secularisation had led Muslims into trying to cut themselves off from outside influence.

Dr Mahathir had said that they tried to isolate themselves physically from non-Muslims and propagate the fear that contact with non-Muslims would lead to contamination of their religion and what they regarded as the Islamic way.

Tengku Razaleigh said if such separation was propagated early in such schools and allowed to continue, the country would head into disintegration.

He also said there were people who claimed to be ulamak whose aim was to extend their influence into the political arena.

"This kind of people certainly could not have a free mind, even from the religious point of view, as they have political interest," he said.

Asked whether ulamak from Pas fell into this category, he said: "I do not know whether it is true for them but if it is true they will feel it."

He added that he did not regard the State Pas Government as an administration of ulamak as they were politicians and their actions would be based on their party's interest.

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