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Mahathir-Truth

DISSEMINATE THE TRUTH TO PROMOTE HARMONY, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded imams to disseminate the truth as it will promote harmony in the country besides enhancing ties among fellow Muslims.

He said that being people with influence in society based on their religious knowledge, imams should take proper charge of the situation.

"We do not want to influence people through baseless allegations, deceit, lies and other ways as these are against the religion," he said at a meeting with some 200 imams and mosque officials from the Kubang Pasu district, here.

Dr Mahathir said that many benefits could be derived by all concerned from a peaceful and harmonious society.

He also explained to them the Putrajaya development project including the Putra Mosque and the official residence of the prime minister.

Dr Mahathir said that even though the PM's residence appears huge that it is called a palace by some quarters, the building, like all the other buildings in Putrajaya, has its purpose and its construction should not be regarded as extravagance.

Putrajaya, where the new federal government administrative centre including the Prime Minister's Department is located, has been described by the opposition as a mega project which is unnecessary and an extravagance.

Dr Mahathir said that various buildings which were impressive had been built in line with the status of Putrajaya as the administrative capital for the long-term benefit of the people and the country.

Referring to the Putra Mosque which could accommodate up to 26,000 people, he said that it reflected the progress of Muslims in Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir said the even non-Muslims could visit the mosque, near the Prime Minister's Department, and this could promote closer ties among the various races in the country.

"I am happy that Putrajaya has adequate facilities...for work and also to carry out religious obligations," he said.

He later performed the Zohor prayers and had lunch with his guests.

-- BERNAMA

MAM RM