

29 JUL 1999

Mahathir-Islam

DON'T TARNISH ISLAM FOR POLITICS, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA TERENGGANU, July 29 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said political parties should not tarnish the sanctity of Islam for political interest.

He said party leaders should not lie in the name of Islam.

In this respect, he took to task PAS leaders including Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat for their untruthful statements purportedly based on Islam but in actualities were politically motivated.

"Let's not tarnish Islam for our own political interest, and if we want to lie...this is what Nik Aziz says, not what Islam says," he said at the meet-the-people session at Kampung Kubang Parit here today. Dr Mahathir also performed the ground-breaking ceremony for a low and medium cost housing project in the kampung.

Dr Mahathir said the Islam teachings used by PAS seemed to differ from those taught by Islam for their interpretations on certain matters varied from the real interpretations.

"For example, according to PAS Islamic teachings...don't be grateful to another human, being grateful to the Almighty is enough...that's not the real teachings of Islam," he said.

The Prime Minister said PAS had never done anything for the development of the people while its leaders were quick to condemn others.

He said several statements by PAS leaders of late showed that the party was desperate and lost a sense of direction.

PAS proposal to sell Putrajaya to finance scholarships to students showed that the party was incapable of raising money and if PAS were to be elected to power, it would be bankrupt government, he said.

On the other hand, he said the Barisan Nasional (BN) with the support of Umno, the biggest Malay party, could ensure that the welfare of poor and the less fortunate was looked after.

"We set up a government to serve the rakyat. We don't promise something which we cannot fulfil," he said.

The Prime Minister said the BN government also did not have to sell assets to provide scholarships to students, including children of PAS members.

"We have enough money, our savings are enough, at any time we have US\$20 billion in our pockets...there's no need to sell anything. Now, we have US\$31 billion in reserve in additions to other savings," he said.

The housing project "KP Perdana", situated about five kilometres from the town centre, will provide 1,000 low and medium cost flats.

Dr Mahathir also launched Terengganu Housing Infoline (09-6267600) where the public could obtain information on housing projects in the state.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir who is Umno president, held closed door meeting with branch and divisional party leaders at Wisma Darul Iman, here.

--BERNAMA

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