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Elite, religious Malays get the rap from Dr M

Fadzil Ghazali

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday took to task Malay elites whose actions and behaviour of late could pose a threat to the preservation of virtues of the race.

He said these self-proclaimed "elites" and "religious" Malays are changing the Malay tradition of gratitude and courtesy, to that of hatred and vulgarity.

"They give pictures of leaders so that kindergarten children can trample on them. In schools and universities, they instigate students so much so that children of Umno members think the struggles of their parents in Umno were wrong.

"To these children, whatever their parents had done is not enough and some even questioned whether the food served at home is halal or otherwise," he said at the launch of Umno Selangor new building in Shah Alam yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said this group of Malays is driven by greed and power, and they are hiding their true colours by pretending to preach the principles of Islam.

"It is more disheartening to see they carried out their behaviour at mosques that are in fact built by the very Government they are out to ruin," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the present administration has been the backbone behind Malaysia's development and progress so far.

He added that a country could not achieve success and development just by gaining independence, instead, it depended upon the efficiency of the government.

Dr Mahathir said these Malay elites themselves are enjoying the benefits from living in a country that prospers and well developed due to the efficiency of the existing Government.

"I am sad that those well versed in Islam have kept quiet, as though the usage of obscene and vulgar language by Muslims is condoned," he added. He said Malays must make it their responsibility to prevent these groups from succeeding in influencing the young minds as this will ultimately spell the end of the Malay's courteous way of living.

"We need to contain such brainwashing activities, otherwise the Malay society will then be disunited and left in a lurch," he added.

Later, Dr Mahathir told a press conference that that there had been many changes in the traits of the Malays.

"In the past, they did not write anything obscene but now they not only write them but were also told to use obscene words as though it is allowed in Islam," he added.

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