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Mahathir-Teachers

EVEN TEST QUESTIONS SET TO INCITE HATRED TOWARDS THE GOVT, SAYS PM

JITRA, Oct 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that even test questions have been set in such a way as to incite hatred among students towards the government.

A teacher in a school in the state was found to have set such questions in a mathematics test, he told a news conference at the Sultan Abdul Halim Airport here before leaving for Kuala Lumpur after a two-day visit.

Dr Mahathir said that he had the test paper and would distribute copies to the press later.

"The question says that one person gets 5 per cent, another 7 per cent and the third person 25 per cent. If Daim gets so much and Mirzan so much, how much will Jani get.

"Jani of course is my son (Mokhzani)," he said.

Dr Mahathir has a son by the name of Mirzan and another son by the name of Mokhzani. Tun Daim Zainuddin is First Finance Minister.

"It's as if we have nothing else to do but to acquire government's assets," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that teachers should only teach and test questions should be based on facts and should not include political elements.

As civil servants, they should be professional and carry out their duties according to directives and policies of the government of the day.

"If the Barisan Nasional is in power, then they will have to obey the BN government's directives and policies. By the same token, if PAS is in power, they will have to obey the PAS government's directives and policies," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that civil servants should not use their position and working hours to campaign for political parties including the BN.

"Whether or not civil servants support the government, it is their right. They are free to make their choice when they vote. They can either vote for the ruling party or the opposition party," he said.

But, when carrying out their duties, civil servants must not campaign for any parties, he said.

The prime minister said that the Information Department does not campaign for the ruling party but provide explanation on the various government policies.

He said that the teacher who set such a test paper was untrustworthy and a traitor for using teaching hours and position while under the employment of the government.

"The government only wants teachers to teach facts, based on the text books," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that the government would not take opportunity to campaign in schools.

"The government does not wish to provide text books on Umno. It's enough that it is stated in the text books that the leader who fought against the Malayan Union was Datuk Onn (Jaafar) and (the nation) achieved independence through Tunku Abdul Rahman," he said.

The prime minister said that the number of teachers involved in such activities during teaching hours was small. It had not spread to other departments in the public sector, he said.

Asked to comment on his visit to the state, Dr Mahathir said that he was satisfied with the people's support and response for the BN.

Kedah, Dr Mahathir's home state, is the first state he is visiting in

the second series of his visits to the states.

-- BERNAMA

JM RM