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Hamid-Propaganda

HAMID: STEER CLEAR FROM VICIOUS POLITICAL PROPAGANDAS

KUALA LUMPUR, July 12 (Bernama) -- Muslims were warned today on the danger of becoming a weak race and their lives in disarray if they allow themselves to be influenced by calls for political assassinations.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Paduka Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said talk about political assassinations was never heard of in this country in the past but now cassette tapes are being distributed calling for such assassinations quoting versus from Quran and Hadis to justify such calls.

"Talks have been given but we do not know where, with the caller justifying murder.... any politician or a leader can be killed or ought to be killed... this is a mortal sign in religion... this will lead to the weakening of the ummah," he told reporters after meeting imams from Federal Territory, here.

He was asked to comment on the circulation of cassette tapes with speeches of opposition leaders calling for the killing of Umno leaders reciting Quranic versus to justify their calls.

Second Finance Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed disclosed yesterday that his name was among the leaders who had been ordered for assassination in the latest cassette which was found to have been distributed by certain groups to teachers and schools.

Chairman of the Umno Committee on Defamation Datuk Ibrahim Ali had also disclosed of another cassette which allegedly contained a directive to assassinate Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and criticised the Sultan of Kelantan personally.

Hamid urged the Muslims not to be carried away by such calls and not to listen to the tapes as they could cause upheaval in society.

He did not rule out the possibility of the calls and the tapes being made by a third party to see Malaysian Muslims fighting among themselves and with non-Muslims.

"Such speeches will lead to fights among fellow Muslims and with non-Muslims later if there are accusations... if there are racial clashes, don't hope for the country's prosperity and people's well-being," he said.

He said distribution of the tapes was an unhealthy development in the country's political arena.

It is evident from Islamic history that whenever there is a political conflict, one party would accuse the other of having deviated from Islam such as branding them as kufur or murtad (apostate).

They would then come up with their own fatwas (religious rulings) which would lead to clashes and killings among fellow Muslims, he said.

In his speech, Hamid urged the imams to capitalise on the Friday sermons to mould the thinking of Muslims to be progressive and be visionaries for the future of the ummah.

He said mosques must be spared from political ideologies.

He said although he was satisfied with the role of imams in the Federal Territory, the Islamic Development Department of Malaysia (Jakim) would continue to guide them through additional training to enhance their Islamic knowledge.

He also presented ex-gratia payments to the imams and allocations for mosque maintenance at the function.

-- BERNAMA

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