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Mahathir-Nik Aziz

NIK AZIZ KNOWS LITTLE ABOUT ISLAM - MAHATHIR

MELAKA, Aug 10 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat's actions indicate that he knows little about Islam.

The prime minister said many of the PAS leader's actions were not things that Muslims ought to do and were only done by people with little knowledge about Islam.

"I say Nik Aziz has little knowldge about Islam because if he has indepth knowledge he will not utter all kinds of words that are not permitted by Islam," Dr Mahathir told a meet-the-people session in Tangga Batu here.

He once again challenged Nik Aziz to prove that the Quran had a verse that permitted the word shit or other offensive words found in Datuk Shanon Ahmad's satirical novel "Shit".

The prime minister accused Nik Aziz of distorting what Prophet Muhammad had said when he left Mecca. The prophet had prayed that others would be blind so that they do not see him leave.

"But Nik Aziz prays to God to make all Muslims who do not support PAS blind," he said.

But, remarked Dr Mahathir cynically, if the prayer was answered, the symbols of all parties would appear as the moon (PAS symbol) to voters and some people would end up voting for the Barisan Nasional (BN) too.

The prime minister also claimed that Nik Aziz himself was now calling Umno members infidels although the menteri besar said previously that only extremists PAS members had done that.

"Who is Nik Aziz to brand as infidels those who pray, recite the kalimah shahadah (declaration of faith), follow all religious rules and do all the good things as required by Islam.

"Nik Aziz makes us infidels so easily. This is the man who claims himself to be an ulama and wants only ulamas to rule," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who was addressing some 15,000 people, said Nik Aziz should not distort Islamic teachings and Quranic verses.

He said Nik Aziz recently advised PAS lecturers to focus on religious teachings "but we know that what the PAS lecturers deliver are not religion, religious teachings, but PAS' teachings which are different from religion."

"That's why in the religious teachings by PAS, God can utter the word shit and other words that I couldn't bring myself to say here," said Dr Mahathir.

Claiming that PAS was inciting university students, workers and everyone not to be grateful, he said this was contrary to Islamic teachings.

Dr Mahathir also claimed that PAS wanted ulamas to rule the country although in a democracy anyone could become the leader.

He also alleged that the top committee in PAS did not have any rights and the ones who did were Nik Aziz and the party's ulama council.

"He (Nik Aziz) is the one who decides on PAS' movements and now wants to expand the party's administrative structure to our country so that only they have the right to rule," said Dr Mahathir.

On PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor's call for Malaysia to seek assistance from the International Monetary Fund, the prime minister claimed that the party wanted to surrender the country to IMF.

"He (Fadzil) has no right to surrender our independence to others.

"He does not have ideas to overcome the attacks on our currency, but we (government) managed to come out with our own approach to fight IMF and all efforts to recolonise us...we did not get anything from PAS in terms of ideas or anything else.

PAS, claimed Dr Mahathir, was willing to accept attacks from foreigners and was even prepared to cooperate with them as the foreign media was supporting it and other opposition parties.

The prime minister also said that when PAS "had finished selling Putrajaya, they will want to sell the country too".

He was referring to newsreports that Fadzil planned to auction off Putrajaya to raise money for scholarships if the party came to power.

Fadzil had, however, clarified that he had only talked about auctioning off the prime minister's new official residence in Putrajaya and not the entire federal administrative capital.

-- BERNAMA

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