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Mahathir-PAS

PAS INDOCTRINATING MASSES TO BE ANTI-RICH, SAYS MAHATHIR

JITRA, July 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today criticised PAS for distorting Islamic teachings and spreading a doctrine of ingratitude and anti-rich to win votes.

By such indoctrination, PAS was hoping that the masses would abandon the decency to be thankful to the government which has given them much benefits through development and able administration, he said.

He said PAS ultimate objective was to create the people's aversion towards the establishment and reject the government in the coming general election.

According to the PAS' schemes of things, the people should only be thankful to God and need not be grateful to fellow human beings, Dr Mahathir said addressing villagers at Kampung Jeragan near here.

"PAS claims that religion does not require man to thank fellow men whereas Allah uses mankind to convey divine pleasures and gifts in life," he said.

He said PAS was also indoctrinating the masses to hate the wealthy whom it claimed had acquired affluence and position because of government cronyism.

"Which of the Islamic teachings says men should not show gratitude for one another," he said.

Dr Mahathir said a divine favour or gift would only come through initiative and good administration.

The people, for instance, should be grateful to the military, police and Rela (the people's volunteer corps) whose personnel gave their lives to put an end to communist insurgency in the country, he said.

At the same time, they should also be thankful that an efficient administration was able to equip the security agencies with the ordnance to fight the insurgents, he said.

"An inefficient government would not be able to put up a credible fighting force let alone come up with roads and water supply," he said.

The prime minister said an inefficient (PAS-led) state government in Kelantan failed to provide even decent water supply to the people there.

"This happens when we choose a sloppy state government," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the government carried with it the heavy responsibility of running the entire country and looking after the well-being of 22 million people.

The government's success in delivering an assortment of benefits to the people had prompted PAS to incite the masses to ignore the common decency to show gratitude to those who had improved their lot, he said.

The prime minister denied PAS' allegations that the haves acquired their wealth and position through being sheer cronies of the government.

Again Dr Mahathir explained that these rich Malaysians acquired wealth through their own efforts.

Nonetheless, he said, the government and the people still benefited from the taxes they paid and their contributions to public causes.

"It is indeed worthwhile to have wealthy people in society. We should not hate or envy them. Religion does not ask us to dislike one another," he said.

As such, it was improper for PAS, if at all it assumed power, to impoverish or get rid of the country's wealthy citizens as they too had contributed to the nation, he said.

"We impose 28 per cent corporate tax on them. Moreover, the rich have given much to help build mosques and suraus across the country, among other things," the prime minister added.

Dr Mahathir was on the final day of a two-day working visit to Kedah.

-- BERNAMA

JM RYN