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Mahathir-Mosque

PAS TRYING TO TARNISH PUTRAJAYA MOSQUE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

JITRA, Nov 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today PAS had attempted to tarnish the sanctity of the Putrajaya Mosque by spreading obsolete ideologies that are not in keeping with Islam among its congregation.

The party had attempted to control the mosque to spread the ideology and indirectly tarnish the image of Islam, he said.

"We were fortunate to have detected it early and were able to stop PAS' attempt to dirty the beautiful mosque for its political ends," he said at the laying of the foundation stone for the Bandar Baru Darulaman Mosque, near here.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said the mosque was a place to unite the Muslims but PAS had used it to split them.

It had, among others, used the pulpit to criticise and slander the government in its Friday sermons, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the differing ideologies among Muslims in the country should not deter them from attending at and making use of the same mosque.

Unfortunately, PAS had accused Umno of being un-Islamic or kafir (infidel) and refused to pray in mosques built by the government, he said.

He recounted an incident in which a group of PAS supporters had prayed at a badminton court outside a mosque, saying that they would not accept the government's mosque, but were ironically told by the worshippers later that the badminton court was also built by the government.

He said the Malays and Muslims were united under Umno before the country attained independence but had split after PAS was set up.

"PAS started the disunity among the Malays and Muslims. Today the gap between the two parties is difficult to bridge. The PAS supporters do not want to close ranks with Umno," he said.

He said PAS' narrow ideology had caused the party to stray from the requirements of Islam and the mosques.

PAS was prepared to sin to promote its political ends, he said, adding that the party's organ, Harakah, was perpetually publishing slander.

"They hope that by slandering the government leaders and my family, the Muslims will reject me, Umno and Barisan Nasional (BN)," he said.

Dr Mahathir urged the people not to be fooled by PAS' propaganda and to continue to support the BN for their wellbeing and more development.

The RM2 million Bandar Baru Darulaman Mosque to be built on a 0.45ha site can accommodate 1,500 people.

-- BERNAMA

TM MFJ JK