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Mahathir-Sultan

PEOPLE AND PAS MEMBERS RESPECT KELANTAN SULTAN, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

ALOR SETAR, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- The people and PAS members in Kelantan do not reject the Sultan of Kelantan, and the only people disrespectful of the Sultan are PAS leaders who are power crazy, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the people and PAS members still respected the rulers.

"Those not showing respect are PAS leaders who are crazy for power to the extent of willing to criticise the rulers," he told a press conference after meeting imam and mosque officials from throughout Kedah at Dewan Seri Negeri here.

He said this when commenting on the Kelantan Menteri Besar's press secretary Wan Ismail Wan Jusoh's alleged statement two days ago that the Kelantan people no longer held the royal family in high regard.

Wan Ismail also allegedly said that the Sultan would lose if he contested against Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat in the next general election.

Wan Ismail reportedly said that if the Sultan could be rejected by the people, what more Kelantan Umno chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah who is only his uncle.

Dr Mahathir said this attitude of PAS leaders showed that they not only did not respect Islam but also did not respect the rulers.

They were merely using Islam as a tool to fish for votes, he said.

Asked what action the government would take against Wan Ismail, he said the government would have to study the laws first before taking any action.

To another question, Dr Mahathir said former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim might have taken out of the country government documents that were not under his jurisdiction.

Dr Mahathir said Anwar could have taken investigation papers of enforcement agencies even though he was not the Home Minister then.

"There were officers not under his ministry, like from the police and Anti-Corruption Agency, who were directed to meet him although he was not the Home Minister," he said.

Anwar planned to use those documents to threaten certain people if he became the Prime Minister, he said.

Asked whether the government would investigate the allegations contained in those documents, the Prime Minister said: "The authenticity of the documents has yet to be determined. Maybe they are forged. He could have got hold of government papers and typed whatever he wanted."

Commenting on Anwar's allegations that he protected a minister from prosecution for corruption, Dr Mahathir said: "Those are his allegations. What evidence is there that I obstructed (prosecution)? How did I do it? I put up a wooden barrier?"

-- BERNAMA

JM YBY