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PM: I'll not allow misuse of Islam

Zubaidah Abu Bakar; Sharanjit Singh

ALOR STAR, Mon. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he is prepared "to go to war" with those who use Islam to fulfil their aspirations to rule the country.

He said he was not willing to allow this group to get their way because Islam, being the religion practised by 60 per cent of the population, must always be upheld.

"I am not willing to allow people who make use of Islam to fish for votes to achieve victory ... even if I have to go to war with them," he said when addressing some 2,000 mosque officials at Dewan Seri Negeri at Wisma Darul Aman today.

Elaborating on this at a Press conference later, Dr Mahathir said he would fight to win the war.

"It is not to shoot people, they talk so we counter," he said.

Dr Mahathir also told the gathering that he accepted in good faith the wild accusations thrown at him via the Internet.

"They accused me of being the 'King of Pharaohs' (Maha Firaun) and other things, they can call me whatever names because in my heart, I am confident that what we are doing is in line with Islam.

"There are also those who said if they get me, I will be sodomised ... this is the party hiding behind religion."

The Prime Minister said he would not back out as he was responsible for all the things he had done in the country.

"If I did something wrong, I will bear the consequences either in this world or the world after."

Dr Mahathir also said he was sad very few Muslims stood up to challenge the claims by certain people that God used profanities.

He said this could be because they feared being labelled as a government supporter and being unIslamic.

"They prefer to keep quiet despite not believing the claims and allow the wrongdoings," he said.

Dr Mahathir also reminded the Malays not to allow the strength of unity displayed from the times the people fought against the Malayan Union to disintegrate.

He said if this happened, it would only expose the country to recolonisation.

"If we are paralysed and there is a split among us until we are willing to slander to win votes, believe me, we will not remain independent for long ... we will be recolonised."

Dr Mahathir said when the country was under foreign rule, Islam and religious theologians did not have a place and would be looked down.

"Today, we are in power and we are able to change our fate ... those with Islamic background are given posts."

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