

18 FEB 1999

Mahathir-Hatred

REJECT HATRED PHILOSOPHY, SAYS MAHATHIR

SANDAKAN, Feb 18 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on Malaysians to reject the "philosophy of hatred" spread by certain groups to get people to be ungrateful to the government.

The Prime Minister said the philosophy was spread among others by university lecturers to their students and by people well versed in religion, using various methods including the Internet.

"Certain groups are teaching us not to be thankful when we get something from anybody but instead bite the hands that feed us," he said when opening the RM260 million Libaran Power Station here.

Some 3,000 people were present at the ceremony, which took place after Dr Mahathir attended the Chinese New Year celebration organised by Sandakan Barisan Nasional that was attended by 5,000 people.

Dr Mahathir said the hatred philosophy taught people who benefited from government efforts and assistance to discredit the government.

"Some of those who come out with this philosophy are people who are trained in Islam. We feel very sad because Islam tells us to be grateful for what we get as eventually whatever we get comes from Allah," he said.

The Prime Minister regretted the actions of the lecturers involved, saying they were occupying the position today as a result of the facilities and assistance provided to them by the government

They would have probably not made it to college and become lecturers if not for the opportunities provided by the government including places in state-owned university, scholarships and training, he said.

"What the lecturers involved teach is contrary to our values and the teachings of Islam, which the lecturers claim to embrace," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the lecturers deliberately sow the seeds of hatred and anger towards the government among the students.

"Because teachings which go against Islam are effectively taught by some university lecturers, we today see that people who were given the opportunity to go to university are not grateful.

"Instead, those who could not make it to university are more appreciative of what the government provides," he said.

The Prime Minister warned that the peace enjoyed by the country would be threatened if the number of lecturers spreading the hatred philosophy increased.

"If they increase and influence the thinking of the people in the country, believe me that our country will not be peaceful, our country will not progress, and we will not be holding opening ceremonies such as the one we are having today," he said.

Dr Mahathir said when religion was misused and proper culture ignored, the government would deteriorate because there would be people who would not want to appreciate what they received from others.

Malaysians, he said, were fortunate because they experienced strong growth that was not available in other developing countries.

"Nobody (in any developing country) receives benefits from the government, is able to live well in his country, except in Malaysia.

"Even during the current economic slowdown we find people having a good life, get enough food, have job opportunities, and are not short of medicine and milk for their children.

"All these are a result of the government's efforts to defend our country and the people should be thankful for this," he said.

Dr Mahathir hit out at those involved in activities such as holding demonstrations, distributing pamphlets and using the Internet to discredit others.

"They hope to ignite chaos in the country with the intention of bringing down the government and escape legal action," he said.

The Prime Minister said the people should appreciate the situation in the country.

"Since the time Barisan Nasional, and before it the Alliance, ruled the country, the government's emphasis is to develop not just the country but also the people.

Dr Mahathir said he was happy that businessmen in the country were generally appreciative of the government.

On the Libaran Power Station, Dr Mahathir said the plant operated by Stratavest Sdn Bhd reflected the progress achieved by the country.

Present at the ceremony were Sabah Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, his deputies Datuk Osu Sukam and Datuk Tham Nyip Shen, and Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat.

-- BERNAMA

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