

03 MAY 1999

Mahathir-Book

UMNO WON'T ASK FOR A BAN ON SHANON'S NOVEL

KUALA LUMPUR, May 3 (Bernama) -- Umno has no intention of asking the government to ban Prof Shanon Ahmad's controversial book "Shit", party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

He said if the political novel was banned the government would also have to ban books from the West which, according to him, used a lot of vulgarities.

Shanon, said Dr Mahathir, had stooped very low merely because of his hatred towards certain quarters.

Speaking to reporters after chairing the Umno Supreme Council meeting, Dr Mahathir also expressed regret that a man with religious knowledge had wrongly interpreted a verse in the Quran in defendinding Shanon.

"We don't see in the Quran, God using foul language. That interpretation insults the Quran and Islam," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said using foul language might be a normal thing to do in the West.

"Some of our people are keen to become 'orang putih' (white men) and follow what the Westerners do," he said.

The prime minister said Western civilisation had collapsed and was valueless.

People in the West think of nothing except sex and fun. They did not value the institution of marriage and instead accept marriages of the same gender, said Dr Mahathir.

"I feel some Malaysians also think this way and view this as a progress for mankind," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians had their own culture which they must defend. They should only accept good examples from the West.

--BERNAMA

AKT SK