

PM slams Pas over new book

12 SEP 2000

Party 'insulting Islam for political ends'

By Shamsul Akmar and
Abdul Razak Ahmad

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today revealed that a book in circulation claiming that Prophet Muhammad was the first president of an Islamic party.

The Prime Minister said the book was another example of how Pas insulted Islam for its own political ends.

He said the book clearly showed that Pas was equating Islam to an Islamic party.

Dr Mahathir said Umno was against such arguments which insulted Islam.

"God did not reveal His divine guidance to Prophet Muhammad, commanding him to set up an Islamic party.

"I have not heard this, not in the Quran, not in the Hadith," he told a Press conference after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting at party headquarters here.

Entitled "*Islam Optimis Melangkah Ke Alaf Baru: Mengapa Pilih Parti Islam?*" (Islam is Optimistic about Stepping into the new Century: Why Choose an Islamic Party?), the book is written by Ibnu Daulah.

Dr Mahathir said the back cover of the book contained a "Message to Malaysians", written by Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor.

"Here (in the book), the Prophet Muhammad is declared to be the leader of the first Islamic party, so he is not the prophet who brought Islam to us but the leader of the first Islamic party.

"So the Prophet Muhammad set up the first Islamic party, not bringing the religion . . . this is according to this book," said Dr Mahathir.

Gesturing to the book's cover, which included photographs of several Pas leaders, Dr Mahathir said: "This means that all these people (on the cover) are the leaders of the 135th or so Islamic party. So it looks they are the same as the Prophet Muhammad."

Dr Mahathir said the book also stated that other parties were "the devil's parties" or secular parties.

"The book does not explain who are these 'devil's parties'; is it Parti Keadilan Nasional, or DAP, or the Socialist, or Umno?"

Dr Mahathir felt that if DAP fell into this category of being a devil's party, it would suit Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat's statement, "that he is willing to work with the devil".

He was saddened by the manipulation of Islam by Pas.

"First, they said that God dab-

bled in vulgarity in order to justify Shanon Ahmad's book, *Shit*.

"Now, to justify Pas, it is said that Prophet Muhammad was the first president of an Islamic party."

Asked about his Merdeka Day address in which he supposedly likened the Chinese group Suqiu to the communists, the Prime Minister said he would meet **with** the group.

"They have requested to meet me and I will meet with them."