

05 JAN 2000

Mahathir-Ulamas

BE MORE RESPONSIBLE IN CHECKING DEVIANT TEACHINGS, ULAMAS TOLD

JITRA, Jan 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged ulamas in the country to be more responsible in checking propagation of deviant Islamic teachings by individuals and groups.

He said there were groups preaching teachings contrary to that of the four Islamic sects followed by majority of Muslims.

"They preached so-called Islamic teachings which differed from the true Islamic faith," he said after breaking the fast with about 200 Muslims at the Kampung Bukit mosque in Hosba here today.

About 60 Thai Muslims from five provinces in Southern Thailand also attended the function along with Menteri Besar Datuk Syed Razak Syed Zain and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Paduka Dr Abdul Hamid Othman.

Dr Mahathir said Muslims with shallow knowledge of Islam would tend to follow and be influenced by the deviationist teachings if such activities were left unchecked.

He said the individuals or groups preach that Umno supporters were not Muslims and therefore mosques used by them must be cleaned up before praying.

They also urged Muslims to perform their prayers in other mosques as they do not recognise government-appointed imams, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the ulamas must strive to stop such activities as they could lead Muslims to deviate from the real Islamic teachings.

These groups could also cause a split and enmity among fellow Muslims which would eventually weaken them, he said.

Dr Mahathir also said the Malaysian government would continue its cooperation with the Muslim community in the five provinces in Southern Thailand in line with the Muslim brotherhood espoused by Islam.

"We feel we have the resources to help them but this does not mean we want to interfere in the political matters of Thailand," he said.

He said Malaysia was prepared to provide skills training to prepare them for the challenges ahead in the new millennium.

"Thai Muslims are better off now than before. Some of them have been made ministers and appointed as speakers," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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