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`Courses to inculcate Islamic values'

PUTRAJAYA, Sat. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today religious courses to be conducted in Government departments will inculcate Islamic values and not contain political elements like the current ones.

The Prime Minister said public servants were sincere in wanting to learn about Islam but lecturers sometimes went on to criticise the Government that it did not implement hudud and as a result public servants became Opposition party members and were no longer professional.

"They carry out their duties while being influenced by their membership of Opposition parties. We will have courses that are more organised and give priority to inculcating noble Islamic values."

He was speaking to reporters after opening the 18th Puspanita annual general meeting here.

Dr Mahathir said the Islamic values included sincerity, trust, honouring promises and oaths, responsibility, being hard-working and not wasting time.

Asked how many Government officers were Opposition party members, he said there were not many but some of them held high office.

Dr Mahathir said the Government would organise courses that focused on Islamic values to prevent religious talks organised by civil servants from being used to inculcate hatred against the Government.

He said there were talks held at Government departments in which the Government was criticised, although they were meant to teach religion.

He said the talks, which were more like Opposition campaigns, had caused many Government officers to join Opposition parties, making it difficult for the Government to discharge its responsibilities.

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