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Mahathir-Teachings

DO NOT BE OBSESSED WITH LEADER'S TEACHINGS- DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 23 (Bernama) -- Muslims should not be obsessed with the teachings or ideologies of leaders as these are inclined to be deviationist and will eventually disrupt the unity of the Ummah, the Prime Minister said today.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that among Muslims at present there were differing interpretations of Islamic teachings to the extent that Muslims waged war against each other.

This situation was made worse with the emergence of various forms of deviationist teachings which focused on leaders and people not in line with their teachings were considered unIslamic, he said when opening a national seminar on Development of Islam and the Threat of Diviationist Teachings at the Mines, Seri Kembangan, near here.

"When loyalty to the teacher surpasses loyalty to the religion and Muslims, they are prepared to kill other Muslims."

"Islam does not exhort us to worship leaders or teachers to the extent of looking up to them as someone separate from others and can do anything even if it goes against Islamic teachings," Dr Mahathir said.

Dr Mahathir said at present deviationist teachings were also spread through the Internet, which according to him, was the political agenda of certain groups -- to confuse and break up the Muslim community.

"This abuse of the Internet is difficult to check as it is not from this country but from other countries," he said.

He said the deviationist teachings were originally true Islamic teachings but when the people who accepted the teachings became obsessed with the teacher, he then began to abuse his position and distort the teachings.

"When once this level is reached, the followers of his deviationist teachings would do anything the teacher directs them to do to the point of even making the murder of fellow Muslims halal," he said.

"People obsessed with their teachers or leaders can be described as belonging to the Asabiah group, willing to do anything in the interest of their teacher and his followers," he said.

The Prime Minister said one of the deviant ideologies injected into the thinking of the followers of this group was that if a government did not fully practise Islamic teachings then it was unIslamic and war should be waged against such a government.

Dr Mahathir said if such was the case no country in the world could be considered an Islamic country for among the 54 Islamic countries which were members of the OIC not even one fully implemented Islamic Law.

"If a government does not practise Islamic teachings fully it does not mean that country is unIslamic or that it rejected Islam."

"Islamic Law at times cannot be implemented fully in view of the prevailing situation in the country and this does not make the country a kafir," he said.

Hence Muslims particularly in Malaysia should strive to identify deviationist teachings and take steps to counter it so as to prevent disunity among them.

Dr Mahathir said usually the feature of deviationist teachings among Muslims was when it was propagated by someone who demanded 100 per cent loyalty from his followers and did not permit them to follow other teachings.

Ten working papers on deviationist teachings and challenges to Muslims were tabled by Ulama and intellectuals from Malaysia and overseas at the two-day seminar.

One of them is the Chairman of the "Lembaga Pusat Nahdatul Ulama Indonesia" Salahuddin Wahid.

--BERNAMA

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