

30/06/2000

Dr Mahathir: Proposal will divide the people

KAJANG, Thurs. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today described a proposal by Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat to have separate restaurants for Muslims and non-Muslims as "the best way to divide people into small segments."

The Prime Minister said the proposal did nothing to bring the people together.

"They want separate restaurants for Muslims and non-Muslims, separate restaurants for women and men ... people who are wearing white (skull) caps should be separated from those wearing black (skull) caps ... this is not bringing people together ... it is trying our best to divide people into small segments."

He was speaking to reporters after opening Universiti Tenaga Nasional, a private university wholly-owned by Tenaga Nasional Berhad.

Nik Aziz' proposal had also been criticised by several leaders who among others said it would not help national integration, and that if implemented would lead to a divided society.

Many also described the proposal as "illogical" and "similar to apartheid".

Nik Aziz had said that in Kelantan, Muslims were not allowed to visit restaurants which served pork and alcoholic drinks.

He had also reiterated his support for the Selangor Islamic Department in arresting 25 Muslims in the Ship restaurant in Damansara.

The department has, however, since dropped the charges against the Muslims.

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