

13 JUL 2000

Abdullah-Deviant

DUTY OF ULAMAS TO RESOLVE DEVIATIONIST-TEACHING PROBLEM

KUALA LUMPUR, July 13 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today it is the ulamas who should play the main role in resolving the problem of deviationist teachings.

This was because it was the ulamas who knew best questions relating to Islamic Law.

"We as politicians should ensure that our colleagues do not support or give their blessings or sympathies to people involved in deviationist teachings," he said when asked to comment on the statement by PAS that it would not act against its members involved in the Al-Ma'unah group.

Speaking to reporters after opening the "SMI One Stop Solution 2000" seminar and exhibition at the Mines, Seri Kembangan near here, he said it was up to PAS if it wanted its members to continue following wrong teachings.

Abdullah, who is also Home Minister, said the real threat to Islam was from Muslims themselves who were not far-sighted and did things according to their whims and fancies to the extent of causing problems.

The Deputy Prime Minister said there was indeed a threat which could deviate the faith of Muslims and apart from that there were so many other things that were happening to Islam leading to activities that could tarnish the religion.

When people get involved in these activities and become receptive to calls to riot, fight and hate each other it would threaten the country's stability and peace, he said.

He said the people should value the present peace and security in the country and have the right perspective towards freedom of worship.

In this respect Muslims were expected to practise the correct teachings of Islam and safeguard their image and that of the country and their religion, Abdullah said.

Asked as to how such an incident involving the Al Ma'unah group could have taken place in the first place, he said a clearer picture would emerge after a thorough probe by the authorities had been completed.

Asked whether any Umno member was involved in the Al Ma'unah group, Abdullah who is also Umno Deputy President said he had not obtained the biodata of all members of the group.

He also said Umno was ready to consider the statement by PAS President Datuk Fadzil Nor that his party was ready to sit down with Umno to discuss measures that would prevent deviationist teachings and incidents such as the one in Sauk, Perak, recently.

Abdullah said not only deviationist teachings that could be discussed but also other activities which were carried out in the name of religion giving rise to all kinds of problems to the people.

"There are people imparting incorrect teachings and making wrong rulings. There are also people creating hatred towards the government using religious avenues. Some gave wrong and confusing information."

For instance some spread the falsehood that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said there was no need to be thankful to the Rasulullah.

-- BERNAMA
MNY AHH AAM