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Mahathir-Hate

HATE CULTURE ENDANGERS SOCIETY, SAYS MAHATHIR

PETALING JAYA, Oct 18 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said efforts by the opposition in sowing hatred and instigating the people pose a danger to society.

The prime minister advised the people to be wary of such opposition tactics.

People influenced by such hate campaigns would become angry and driven to commit crazy acts like seizing weapons and killing, he said when launching the Umno Civil Action Bureau's service centre in Sungai Way here tonight.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said it was reported that recently popular local singer Siti Nurhaliza was attacked by a youth.

"I believe this may be the result of efforts in sowing hatred," he said.

It was reported that Siti was nearly stabbed by a young man armed with a penknife at Stadium Larkin in Johor Baharu on Oct 15.

Dr Mahathir said it was general knowledge that demonstrations were held by certain people to protest against entertainment performances.

He said Umno would not resort to such hate campaigns to win the people's support.

Malaysia as a democratic country allowed the various parties to use their own platforms and ideas to canvass for support in a bid to form the government, he said.

However, of late some parties did not campaign on the development agenda or what they could do for the people but instead focused on instilling hatred towards the country's leaders and the government, he said.

He said if the opposition wanted to fight the government it should match Umno's efforts in development and its ability to form a stable and successful government.

He hoped that the service centre could help people from all walks of life, including those not from Umno.

The centre is the first project of the Civil Action Bureau headed by Umno Supreme Council member Azalina Othman Said.

The prime minister later addressed some 5,000 people comprising mostly factory workers from the Sungai Way free trade zone here.

In his speech, he said Malaysia had developed from an agriculture country into an industrial economy since gaining independence.

He said its population had increased from 5 million to 23 million today, and many American, Japanese and European companies had set up factories because of the government's efforts in attracting foreign investments.

Dr Mahathir said the foreign investors also realised that Malaysian workers were efficient, could be easily trained and were now capable of producing any kind of goods.

The country's level of industrialisation has progressed to the stage of manufacturing and design of automobiles like Proton as well as manufacturing of light aircraft and wing components for Boeing jets.

Job opportunities had also increased to the extent that the country was attracting foreign workers, he said.

-- BERNAMA

GM GM YBY