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Mahathir-Sad

MAHATHIR SADDENED BY DISUNITY AMONG MUSLIMS

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is saddened by continuous efforts of the opposition to cause a split among Muslims.

He said the rapid development attained by Islam in the country was merely superficial because in reality the Muslims themselves were becoming more divided.

"This is due to the efforts by the opposition leaders to instigate Muslims to hate the country's leaders and also other Muslims who do not share their ideals," he said at the "Majlis Nur Ramadhan" (The Light of Ramadhan), organised by the Federal Territory Umno at the Kuala Lumpur Mosque in Jalan Duta, here this evening.

The Prime Minister said the seeds of disunity were being sowed at an early age by asking innocent children to hate Muslim national leaders.

"In the recent Lunas by-election, for example, children were asked to shout 'Bunuh Mahathir' (Kill Mahathir), and various unfounded allegations were levelled at me such as of being unIslamic as well as disrespectful to the ulamas and Prophet Muhammad," he said.

He said children were already taught to hate and being innocent, they knew not what it was all about.

"They only follow what adults tell them to do...," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the opposition leaders had no other issues to harp on other than to instil hatred against the country's leaders in the hope that when the people hated the government, they would gain the benefit in return.

He said the government of the day was elected by the people through a party system of democracy to determine which party would govern the country.

According to the Prime Minister, democracy is good but can also be destructive if the people do not know how to use it.

"What they should do, being members of political parties, is to explain (to the people) what they will do when they are elected to power and then it is up to the people to choose which party they want," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that inciting hatred against certain individuals to the extent of causing disunity among the people as being the case among Muslims was certainly not part of the democratic system.

"The Muslims in this country is so disunited that some are isolated, detached, refuse to speak to others and some Muslims even disallow their children to marry other Muslims whom they accuse of being unIslamic.

"This is not the way of democracy as practised in other democratic countries, but unfortunately we don't understand the use of this democracy, and as the result Muslims are so disunited that we see no way of them coming back together again," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the government was aware of the activities of the opposition in using the mosques to badmouth government leaders especially those who are Muslims.

"They (opposition leaders) know that there is no truth to what they say but they say it just the same for politics.

"Purportedly they are fighting for Islam. If we are fighting for Islam, what would it be?...none other than to close ranks," he said.

Dr Mahathir also hit out at certain groups for supporting foreigners whose actions could destroy the country, merely to gain the support of the people.

"They feel great and proud for supporting outside countries like the United States, Australia, England and others," he said.

Dr Mahathir said foreigners had tried to make the country poor by

bringing down the value of the ringgit.

"We will not bow down to them, on the other hand we improve the country's economy on our own initiatives. We know these outsiders have no kind intentions against us.

"Look at what happens in Palestine. They let the Palestinians be killed and take no action even when asked to, and these people who refuse to help the Palestinians suddenly come to help people in our country," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians who rebelled, took part in street demonstrations and cursed the government were actually being used by foreign power to cause disunity among Muslims.

According to him, this is because Malaysia is the only Islamic country which strongly criticised them and refused to concede to their demands.

During the function, Dr Mahathir and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Ali handed over assistance of RM100 and 10kg of rice each to 1,300 poor people in the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur and Labuan.

Dr Mahathir later joined Muslims in breaking the fast and performing the Maghrib, Isyak and Terawikh prayers.

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