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Mahathir-Malays

MALAY SUPREMACY MEANINGLESS IF MALAYS ARE WEAK

By: Ahmad Zukiman Zain

CAIRO, June 21 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malay supremacy cannot be guaranteed just by saying that the post of prime minister must be held by a Malay.

"It can only be guaranteed if the Malays strive to be the strongest race in our country in terms of education, mastering of knowledge and technology and so on," he told Malaysian journalists at the end of his four-day visit to Egypt to attend the Summit Meeting of the Group of 15 Developing Nations (G15).

He was asked to comment on his statement at the MCA general assembly in Kuala Lumpur last week that non-Malays could also become prime minister which had raised various reactions including one that described the statement as denying Malay supremacy.

He said it was pointless talking about Malay supremacy if the Malays were weak and were begging in their own country.

According to him, there was no provision in the constitution stating that non-Malays could not become prime minister.

"A non-Malay can only become the prime minister, and I stressed this in my speech, if he is accepted by the Malaysian people which include the Malays," he said.

"If there comes a time when the Malays are prepared to accept a non-Malay as prime minister, we can't stop it, it is the choice of the Malays themselves.

"If the Malays have become so weak, poor, begging from others and they are being bought with money to support the non-Malays, at that time it is then possible that a non-Malay may hold the position," he said.

If such a situation occurs whereby the Malays have become so obsessed with money to the extent that they can be bought to sell their own race, they will become slaves in their own country.

"I say so based on reality, I'm not emotional or talking in terms of sentiment...many others only talk of sentiment about Malay supremacy and yet they clean other people's shoes, what supremacy (is this?)" he said.

In his meeting with Malaysian students earlier, Dr Mahathir explained the efforts taken by Malaysia to defend the country's independence from foreign imperialism.

This included the new form of imperialism through economic control and globalisation which suppressed the smaller nations.

He said there were some member nations within the G15 which wanted to know more about Malaysia's success in overcoming the economic crisis that swept over Asia.

The prime minister said the country would become weak if the people could not master modern technology especially in enhancing self protection in the age of information technology.

During the question and answer session, he said many countries including Egypt had said that Malaysia was a role model for the other Muslim nations.

"They look upon us as a model but we in Malaysia deny this fact, I'm very sad," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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