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PM: We won't allow any group to instigate our security forces

BUTTERWORTH, Sat. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government would not allow any group to instigate the security forces to betray the country and people.

If this happened, like in some countries, he said, the nation would be in chaos and the people would suffer.

"Despite a futile attempt by the Al-Ma'unah movement to infiltrate the army, our security forces are generally loyal to the people and Government," Dr Mahathir said.

"The armed forces' and police's strong commitment and undivided loyalty to the nation have enabled our multi-racial society to continually live in peace and harmony."

In some countries, the Prime Minister said, there were warring factions within the security forces due to instigation by groups with selfish political interests.

"This gives rise to civil wars and it is their people who are suffering.

"Our security forces know their responsibilities well.

"If certain quarters are successful in turning them into traitors, then they (members of the security forces) will be a threat to the nation and the people's well-being, and the Government will never allow this to happen."

In fact, Dr Mahathir said, members of the security forces had always extended themselves beyond the call of duty.

They had made countless sacrifices to safeguard the nation's security, he said, enabling the people to continually enjoy many socio-economic programmes.

"We must always be thankful that the security forces have always been loyal to the country and the Government."

Dr Mahathir, who was accompanied by his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, said this when attending the Perdana Menteri Bersama Rakyat programme at the Royal Malaysian Air Force's Wisma Perwira's beachfront here.

It was organised by State Assemblywoman for Telok Air Tawar Jahara Hamid.

Also present were Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, Butterworth RMAF base commander Brig-Jen Abu Bakar Mohd Said, other State dignitaries and their wives.

About 7,000 attended the programme, which also included static exhibitions, food fair, contest and a variety show.

On today's event, the Prime Minister commended Butterworth RMAF for being friendly and accommodating.

"They have supported the Government by allowing the use of their facilities to ensure greater rapport between them, the Government and the people," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Mahathir took a swipe at Pas leaders for continually lying to their supporters and using Islam to serve their political interests.

"I am very sad that Pas leaders have never ceased to lie to its members and to disgrace Islam.

"They also condemned me and called me names, but I am grateful to Allah.

"My friends (in the Barisan Nasional Government) and I will always work hard for the people. We want the people to live in peace and enjoy continued prosperity."

( END )