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Mahathir-staff

DR MAHATHIR SUGGESTS MENTAL REHABILITATION FOR CIVIL SERVANTS WHO ARE ANTI-GOVERNMENT

JITRA, April 21 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has suggested mental rehabilitation for civil servants who are anti-government since transferring them to the interior does not seem to be of any help.

The Prime Minister said that in many cases, these civil servants had created problems at their new places of posting.

"I am not so keen in the method of sending them to other places," he said in his adjournment speech at the delegates conference of the Kubang Pasu Umno division here this evening.

Dr Mahathir said that hopefully through mental rehabilitation, civil servants concerned would see the "light" and come to their senses.

"We really do not know what to do with them, some have suggested that we send them to Sabah," he said.

"The people of Sabah complained because we sent them people with problems. Langkawi was very clean in the past but now less clean due to such people," he said.

Dr Mahathir who is also Umno president said the approach then would be to go to them and be brave enough to make them see reason.

He said some had returned to support the government after getting the real picture.

"People oppose the government because they did not get the right information about the government," he said.

According to Dr Mahathir, he was once regarded as a betrayer by those who only heard the views of one side.

He hoped that Umno members and leaders would work together to defend the party's honour and respond to issues raised by anti-government and anti-Umno groups.

"We must also be prepared to challenge all allegations," he said.

Dr Mahathir also suggested that Umno members go to the mosques frequented by PAS supporters and made a tape-recording of the speeches they made.

If they did this often, he said PAS supporters would then be afraid to tell lies anymore in the mosques.

Dr Mahathir also advised Umno members against sending their children to kindergartens managed by PAS because it would bring more harm than good.

The children could be influenced by anti-government and anti-Umno attitude displayed at these kindergartens, he said.

"Umno can also set up kindergartens if necessary. There is no need to send them to PAS kindergartens," he said.

He said the government also cared for the welfare of the people in the rural areas, providing them things which they never asked such as street lighting.

"The cost of providing street lighting in the rural areas is far greater than in the urban areas...but the government does it anyway for the people," he said.

Earlier in winding-up the debate on the motion on economy, Dr Mahathir said Malaysians should prepare themselves for the challenges of the Asean Free Trade Area (AFTA) and World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Among the measures which could be taken would be to increase production and quality especially in the food sector, he said.

In Kelantan, he said efforts were being carried out to work the paddy fields five to seven times in two years compared to four times at present.

The move would not only increase production at lower cost but also increase the income of the farmers, he said.

He also hoped that the people would not blame the government for the drop in the prices of certain agricultural commodities including oil palm because they were governed by international financial market.

Dr Mahathir said the outside countries were also pressuring WTO to use its power so that the Malaysian government would exempt the cars they produced from import duties.

If they succeeded, he said the national car industry would be jeopardised and the government would see that this would not be the case.

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AD ABG