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Mahathir-Islam

GOVT WILL FIGHT THOSE WHO OPPOSE TRUE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM

DUNGUN, Nov 10 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government will go all out to fight any group in the country that opposes the true teachings of Islam.

Describing them as traitors, the prime minister said there were groups which deliberately influenced students to neglect other knowledge and to focus only on religious education and to be active in political activities.

"We will fight to the end these factions which oppose Islamic teachings because we don't want the people in our country to be oppressed like the people of Afghanistan," he said when launching the 2001 National Settlers Day celebrations at Padang Astaka Bandar Ketengah Jaya here.

Present were his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Land and Cooperative Development Minister Tan Sri Kasitah Gadam and Felda chairman Datuk Dr Yusof Nor.

The prime minister said command of other knowledge besides religious education was important to defend the country and the religion.

Dr Mahathir said Islam demanded that its followers defend the religion by mastering various knowledge.

By mastering various types of knowledge, Muslims in Malaysia would be able not only to defend the country and religion but also to help the Muslims of other countries, he said.

Expressing regret that certain parties were trying to influence the students to focus only on acquiring religious knowledge at the expense of other knowledge, he said: "They are actually betraying the Islamic teachings and they don't want the Muslims to defend themselves."

Dr Mahathir said developments in the country like the existence of militant groups which were prepared to rob, kill, threaten places of worship of other religions and topple the government through violence were not treated lightly.

He said the actions of such groups made it impossible for the Islamic countries to develop.

"These are the people who create chaos, resulting in government not being able to concentrate on development not because it is spending time and money on curbing such activities," he said.

Dr Mahathir hoped that the settlers were grateful to the government for successfully putting them in the mainstream of national development.

He said many world leaders had visited and witnessed Felda's success and had wanted similar programmes for their country "but their capability is limited and they don't have enough money."

About 15,000 settlers attend the launch.

-- BERNAMA

MS MRA JK