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Mahathir-Teachers

INCORRECT RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS BAFFLING STUDENTS- DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, July 24 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister said today religious teachers are not imparting the correct religious teachings leaving students baffled and resorting to evil acts such as devil worship.

Many of these religious teachers were not discharging the duties entrusted to them and instead were focusing on politics, especially propagating the PAS political message, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said the government introduced the religious subject not just to spread religion but also to enable the young generation to understand their faith and to know the obligations and prohibitions.

Earlier the Prime Minister presented the Proton World International smart card to Iris Technology Malaysia and the National Registration Department at Iris' premises at the Technology Park Malaysia in Bukit Jalil here.

"Unfortunately many religious teachers did not care about religious education and instead concentrated on politics especially in spreading the PAS political message -- creating hatred towards the government among students-- and so now the students are confused. Hence they do not know what is prohibited by religion and when there are teachings which are opposed to Islam, they go along with it," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked about certain religious teachers not discharging their duties entrusted to them -- to impart correct religious teachings to students -- resulting in their falling prey to unhealthy influences such as the Black Metal satanic culture.

Dr Mahathir said, for instance, in this devil worship, elements of anti-Christian activities had been detected.

"Hence the boys and girls think that being anti-Christian is in line with their stand. There are girls wearing the tudung but also a chain with an upside down cross. Then there will be allegations that Christians are trying to convert these boys and girls," the Prime Minister said.

"In fact Christians are not involved in any such activities. But this is because of bringing in deviationist teachings about the religion of Islam....bringing in devil worship to the extent that they tear up the Quran," he said.

Dr Mahathir said there were students who had admitted insulting the Quran because they did not get the correct religious teachings in the school.

"If there is no correct religious teaching, whom are we going to blame....if teachers do no teach religion.... Not all but there are many who do not care about religious teaching and instead focus on politics," he said.

On efforts to correct the situation, Dr Mahathir said the teachers who were involved should be gathered together and be made aware of their irresponsible activities till now.

"It is a sin to do this as they are untrustworthy....we have placed our trust in them to impart Islamic religious teaching but they neglect this responsibility and instead spread the politics of the opposition party in the hope that when these students grow up they will join the opposition party. This is their 30-year plan from kindergarten onwards," he said.

Hence PAS was actively setting up kindergartens not with the intention of teaching religion to them but to make them hate the government, Dr Mahathir said.

The Prime Minister was also asked about the DAP National Youth Chief Teng Chang Khim's advice to the party national Chairman Lim Kit Siang to step down from the helm.

"He has said so many times that he wants to step down. However he says one thing and does something else."

-- BERNAMA

RV AHH AAM