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Mahathir-KMM

KMM PLANS TO SET UP ISLAMIC UNION OF THREE COUNTRIES, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 1 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Kumpulan Militan Malaysia (KMM) had the idea of setting up a so-called Islamic country through the union of three countries -- Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The KMM had links with certain groups in Indonesia and the Philippines, the prime minister said.

"They have very big ambition but it's not realistic, " he told reporters after launching the first Malay Education Congress at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Early last month, the Malaysian police arrested 10 people under the Internal Security Act (ISA) for alleged involvement in KMM activities prejudicial to national security.

A Malaysian, Taufik Abdul Halim, 26, who was detained in Indonesia in connection with bomb blasts at two Jakarta churches and a shopping complex, was also suspected by the Malaysian authorities of being a KMM member.

He said the KMM's activities were very serious but "unfortunately we are not in the position to reveal everything yet...I have been given certain information and I think it is very serious," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the move by KMM to set up an Islamic country stemmed from the idea that Malaysia was not a Muslim country and was being run by "kafir" (infidel) and because of that, the government had to be overthrown.

He said some people believed in overthrowing a government by democratic means through the use of the ballot box but the extreme ones believed that the only way was to fight.

He said most of the KMM members were involved in the war in Afghanistan and other places.

The prime minister also said that a study by the government on more than 300 Malay university students revealed that at all times, there was a group of students who did not view themselves as Malays but Muslims despite getting into the universities under the Malay category.

"They don't even understand the meaning of 'persaudaraan dalam Islam' (Islamic brotherhood) and are so worked up with the idea of hating the government, which they believe is an unIslamic government," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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