

03 SEP 2001

Mahathir-Militants

KMM WANTS POWER ONLY FOR ITSELF, NOT FOR ISLAM, SAYS DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- Members of the so-called KMM militant group, whose activities were uncovered in the country recently, only want to grab power for themselves and do not really aspire to combine three Asean nations into an Islamic union, the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"They do not so much want to set up an Islamic nation. Their real intention is only to grab power for themselves.

"The moment they secure power, whatever kind of administration they set up is another matter," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said this at a news conference after chairing the party's Supreme Council meeting here today.

He said the KMM's grand design to merge Malaysia, Indonesia and the Southern Philippines into an Islamic union was among matters discussed at the three-hour-long meeting.

Dr Mahathir said the group was not fighting against the enemies of Islam but to use force to topple the country's elected government which the world recognised as Islamic.

He described the group as being bent on seizing political power through armed struggle and its members as not genuine Islamic fighters in the real sense of the word.

"They are armed political insurgents trying to seize power. They seem to lack the patience to wait for the democratic system to give them the power," he said.

Today's council meeting also discussed ways to tackle underground elements out to indoctrinate Malay students in public universities to turn them against the government, the prime minister said.

He added that Umno had identified specific approaches to deal with the problem but they could not be made public.

-- BERNAMA

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