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Mahathir-Islam

MALAYSIA WILL BECOME A SECOND AFGHANISTAN IF....

ALOR SETAR, Nov 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded Muslims that Malaysia will probably become a "second Afghanistan" if elements out to jeopardise national security are not checked.

The Prime Minister said at present there had emerged "attacks" by certain groups in this country, who were uneasy over the peace, success and wellbeing that had been brought about by the government for the people's benefit.

"These groups are not happy with the government's success and they are trying to create trouble and resort to terrorism to topple the government....if they succeed, this country will become a second Afghanistan," he said when opening the Kompleks Al Bukhary here.

Dr Mahathir said hatred for the government had long been sowed by certain groups which felt they were more Islamic and more qualified to administer this country.

"Children sent to the schools which they conducted were taught to hate government leaders and told that they would replace the present government. They are made to believe only they themselves are right and correct," he said.

Dr Mahathir said instilling the idea of hating other people had indeed occurred in Afghanistan.

"The Taliban are people who were educated at the madrasah in Pakistan. They learnt how to hate the government in their country and finally toppled the Government of Afghanistan."

"During the Taliban rule, women were oppressed, turned into slaves...is this Islamic teaching... when Islam in fact upholds the dignity and honour of women," the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister said the flowers seen in that country were beginning to bloom in Malaysia and that is why the government often reminded Muslims in this country to remain united.

He said the one billion Muslims in the world were weak and being oppressed because they did not follow the actual teachings of Islam.

Muslims, he said, were now under intense pressure and were looked upon as terrorists and in some places were treated really badly following the Sept 11 attacks in New York.

"We will probably feel disappointed over the fate of Muslims but we are unable to do anything because we are weak... because we do not follow the actual teachings of Islam."

"Muslims are at enmity, there is no unity, let alone the feeling of brotherhood among them," he said.

At the same time, Muslims also did not master knowledge that could strengthen their country and the Ummah.

"Muslims do not encourage the mastering of knowledge which was vital for Muslim strength. Moreover the sad thing that occurred was when students sent to learn Islamic knowledge in other countries had instead deviated and learnt how to make bombs, rifles and methods of waging war to topple the government."

Dr Mahathir broke fast and attended Maghrib prayers with members of the public at the mosque.

Also present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hashmah Mohd Ali and Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain.

The Kompleks Al-Bukhary has various facilities such as for old folks,

the orphans and a training centre for the handicapped and disabled.
It is owned by the Yayasan Al-Bukhary.

-- BERNAMA

MZM JM AAM