

10 NOV 2001

Mahathir-Militancy

MILITANT GROUPS WANT TO SET UP ISLAMIC STATE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

DUNGUN, Nov 10 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today militant groups in Malaysia had planned to set up a Daulah Islamiah (Islamic state) after overthrowing the governments of Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

However, the government had succeeded in detecting their activities early and identifying those involved, he said.

"Because of them, there's no strong Islamic country because the governments of the Islamic countries are occupied with curbing their activities," he told reporters after visiting the house of a settler, Mamat Abdullah, at Felda Kertih Lima, near here.

He said these militant groups were trained in madrasah which were not recognised in Pakistan and given military training in Afghanistan by the Taliban.

"In these madrasah they are taught how to revolt using religion as a motivation," he said.

He said that when they returned to their homeland they plotted with similar groups in Indonesia and the Philippines to set up a Daulah Islamiah.

"They try through violent means because they don't believe in the democratic system. Apparently they want to set up a Daulah Islamiah consisting of Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines," he added.

However, their activities were nipped in the bud because the government had detected them early.

Asked whether the opposition parties were involved in the militant activities, Dr Mahathir said: "We don't know whether or not they (opposition parties) are involved.

"However, we know that nearly all of those involved in the militant movement in Malaysia are members of PAS, PAS Committee and PAS Youth Committee and not Umno," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that for these militant groups, an Islamic state was one modelled after that in Afghanistan which is ruled by the Taliban.

"If any government tries to develop an Islamic country they will accuse these countries of being secular and not Islamic," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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