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Mahathir-PAS

PAS HAS HIDDEN AGENDA FOR NOT ADHERING TO GOVT BAN ON CERAMAHS

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad described PAS's refusal to adhere to the government's ban on ceramahs in public places as the party's political strategy to get its members arrested so that Malaysia can be accused of being undemocratic and being a police state.

The Prime Minister said although there was freedom of speech in the country there were limits and excessive PAS politics can rock the nation's stability and this cannot be allowed, as such the move to ban ceramahs.

"I explained yesterday that in other democratic countries, after the elections is over all campaigning stops, but in Malaysia PAS will continue to campaign until the next general election," he said.

"If they just campaign it is alright, but they get people agitated because their campaigns are centred on hatred for the government," he told reporters after presenting excellent service awards at the Treasury here today.

Dr Mahathir said although PAS claimed it did not promise a place in heaven for its supporters they however accused the government of not being Islamic and so on and so forth.

"This has resulted in many people not being able to work, not being able to study as they are too agitated by this kind of hate campaign.

"In the mosques, they give sermons, in the universities they cause trouble everywhere as if their campaigns never stops. Although we allow freedom of speech, it has its limits," he added.

The Prime Minister said the government was prepared and has in fact separated education from politics. But PAS has gone to kindergardens, schools and universities to politicise many things to students.

This activity had continued even after the students entered the job market, he added.

"This is extreme politics and is not intended to develop the nation. It is aimed at developing hatred for the government and to garner support for themselves to wrestle power.

"In America, England, Germany, any where after the general elections is held they would stop voluntarily (campaigning) maybe sometimes a seminar here and there or whatever," he said.

However, Dr Mahathir said PAS was said to be organising 100 ceramahs each day and the contents of the ceramahs were mostly anti-government propaganda and accusations.

-- BERNAMA

AFY ZS DVS