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Mahathir-PAS

PAS DOES NOT RESPECT THE LAW, SAYS DR M

TUMPAT, July 20 (Bernama) -- PAS's adamant attitude to go ahead holding ceramahs and political gatherings nationwide as usual despite being prohibited by the police showed the party has no respect for the law, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"This shows they (PAS) do not respect the law. They too will not like it if others do that to them," he told a media conference at the end of his one-day visit to Kelantan.

He urged PAS, which is in power in Kelantan and Terengganu, to obey the law enforced by the authorities.

"We all must respect the law. If we do not respect the law when we are the government, others too will not respect the law.

"If nobody respects the law, there'll be anarchy in the country. The people will face big problems if we do not respect the law," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this when commenting on PAS leaders' objection to the recent circular by the Bukit Aman federal police headquarters instructing Chief Police Officers and OCPDs not to issue permits for political ceramahs as they could undermine national security.

PAS deputy president Abdul Hadi Awang said on Tuesday that his party would continue with its ceramahs although the authorities forbid PAS from holding political ceramahs.

The ban on political ceramahs, which also covered Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties, came into force early this month to prevent activities that could threaten national security.

On the influence of Black Metal cult whose members practise satanic rituals and distribution of pornographic tapes among youths and students, Dr Mahathir said it was difficult for the government to tackle the menace if it was disseminated through the Internet.

He said the menace was also spread through video compact discs and compact discs distributed widely in various places in the country.

Dr Mahathir said students and youths could be stopped from getting involved in social ills if their parents provided them with solid religious and moral education.

"If our children are brought up well, they will not be attracted to such things. If we stick to religious education, we will reject the negative things," he said.

Dr Mahathir said his observation showed those involved in unhealthy activities had low morals and weak religious education.

"Some even go to the extent of tearing and stepping on the Al-Quran. This shows they have no religious education.

"I'm surprised why students from religious schools do not receive religious education that can be a bullwark to prevent them from indulging in social ills," he added.

-- BERNAMA

RAR TS