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Mahathir-PAS

PAS STUMBLING BOCK TO MALAY ADVANCEMENT, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 23 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today accused PAS of being a stumbling block to Malays achieving progress, saying the party teaches the young to ignore all studies other than religious studies.

He said PAS allegedly taught children, right from kindergarten level, to regard subjects like Mathematics and Science as secular studies and those of infidels.

"These people are a stumbling block to talented Malays attaining success," the prime minister and Umno president said in his winding-up address at the Umno General Assembly.

Accusing PAS of branding Umno as infidel, he said the opposition party did that to oppose efforts by Umno to develop the country and make the Malays capable of competing with other communities that had advanced.

It was because of groups like PAS that Muslim countries were backward and easily exploited by major powers, said Dr Mahathir.

"When a government in a Muslim country tries to modernise the country by introducing studies regarded as vital for national development, there will be another group opposing all these efforts purportedly because they are unIslamic," he said.

Dr Mahathir said PAS's alleged action in branding Umno members as infidels had also resulted in the existence of groups that dared to attempt to topple the government through force.

"We have seen that they are groups that are willing to steal weapons to bring down the government through force. This is the effect of calling Umno members infidels," he said.

If such action was not stopped, more people would start believing that killing Umno members was permissible in Islam because they were allegedly infidels, warned the prime minister.

Dr Mahathir also accused PAS deputy president Abdul Hadi Awang of trying to deceive the Malays and Chinese on the form of Islamic state PAS would set up if came to power at the national level.

He referred to Hadi's reply to the question of whether PAS would abolish the civil court system, published in the English section of the party newspaper Harakah.

According to Dr Mahathir, Hadi had replied that Malaysia was a multi-racial country and in that sense different from Saudi Arabia and Sudan

Claiming that the reply was meant only for the Chinese community, Dr Mahathir challenged Hadi to re-publish the statement in Malay, English, Chinese and Tamil.

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