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Mahathir-PAS

PAS' ACTIVITIES SPLIT MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 22 (Bernama) -- Activities of the opposition party, PAS such as advocating prayers led by separate imams have divisive effects on Muslim unity and brotherhood, the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

Such consequence had reportedly spread to a mosque in the city over the past two months.

When asked on today's newspaper report on such state of affair, Dr Mahathir cynically said: "That's good. This is a very interesting development because in the past we were of one race, one religion and not split.

"Then PAS turns up and preoccupy itself with splitting the Muslims," he said at news conference upon his return from Uganda today after attending the four-day Global 2001 Smart Partnership International Dialogue in Kampala.

According to the report, a group of Universiti Malaya (UM) students and supporters of a political party had, for the two months, chosen to be led by their own imam instead of a government-appointed one in prayers at the Ar-Rahman mosque near the campus.

Asked on a report about four standard two pupils of a school in Perak caught performing oral sex in the classroom recently, Dr Mahathir said: "This shows moral decay."

Despite schools having religious classes and teaching morality, such efforts have not been effective going by what had happened, he said.

The prime minister said he was clueless as to what was being taught during religious classes that caused the pupils to have no qualms at all about indulging in such indecency.

"The tools that we use to guard the morals of our children are not functioning," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that had Malay students, who are all Muslims, been adequately enlightened about Islam, they would not be committing indecent acts.

"We know that religious teachers in schools put politics first than imparting religious knowledge," he said.

Such teachers, he said, were more concerned about sowing hatred towards the government so much so that students remained ignorant about Islam and subscribed to satanic occultism.

-- BERNAMA

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