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Mahathir-Police

POLICE MUST MAINTAIN PROFESSIONALISM, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 27 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded members of the security forces to maintain professionalism in discharging their responsibilities and to remain loyal to the government.

The prime minister said that in the country's administrative system, it was most crucial that officers of the civil service, police and military adhered to the wishes of the government chosen by the people.

"If we have a stand that differs from that of the government and because of this, when there is a directive made and we do not agree with it and thus we don't implement it, there will certainly be chaos in the country.

"This is because the police is no longer effective as they no longer follow the government's directive," he said when speaking at a meeting with 460 members of the Malaysian Ex-Policemen's Association at the Prime Minister's Department (JPM), here today.

Dr Mahathir said the situation was most dangerous for Malaysia when the government no longer commanded loyalty as it had become an ineffective government.

He said that for former policemen, the problem of conflicting stand with the government while they were in service never cropped up, but the new generation of policemen now faced various pressures from groups who were trying to influence them to discard their professionalism.

However, he said he was thankful that the police and military personnel in the country knew about their responsibilities to maintain national security in an efficient and disciplined manner so much so that the people felt safe.

Dr Mahathir said unfortunately there were times when some people did not appreciate the security prevailing in the country and the role played by police.

He said there had been many cases of coup attempts in developing countries by ambitious leaders of the armed forces using the strength of the security forces due to the lack of professionalism.

In several other countries, the prime minister said the government was formed and toppled by the security forces resulting in the administration changing frequently and there was no peace in the country when the armed forces gave their loyalty to certain leaders.

"Fortunately in Malaysia, we don't have senior officers (of the security forces) trying to become heroes to their troops and trying to seize power. The rank and files too don't accept such methods and on the contrary, they know that their role is to accept whatever orders given by the government chosen by the people," he said.

He said although there were some members of the police and military forces in the country who were "not happy" with the government, they still followed orders and this enabled the government to administer the country effectively.

Dr Mahathir said while the government elected by the people was not permanent because the people had the power to replace the government, the services of government servants whether in the civil service, police or armed forces would remain despite the change of government.

At the meeting, representatives of the association pledged their loyalty and solid support to the prime minister.

-- BERNAMA

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