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Mahathir-Black Metal

SEEK IMMEDIATE SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS AFFECTING YOUTHS, SAYS PM

KOTA BAHARU, July 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that all parties especially parents and teachers should find out the causes and immediately overcome the problems affecting youths who have been led to committing crime and subscribing to anti-religion philosophy.

He said it was very sad that today there had been many incidents involving teenage students, unheard of before.

"...not among the Chinese or Indians but the Malays...the Indians, the Chinese are also involved but the number (of cases involving) the Malays is high.

"Today we read about a group of Malays who have departed from Islamic teachings, practising Satanism, involved in what is called black metal culture," he said when launching the IT Literacy Programme at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Kubang Kerian 2 here.

Elaborating on such activities before some 3,000 people, Dr Mahathir said that the teenage members of the group were involved in cult activities and influenced through messages in lyrics of songs.

The Cabinet has been reported to have ordered the authorities to question several bands believed to be influencing the group to preach anti-God messages to youths through their music.

The decision by the Cabinet yesterday followed reports that the cult group was roping in youths, mainly teenage students, to subscribe to their anti-establishment and anti-religion philosophy.

"They have reached a stage where they, our Malay youths...students...are prepared to step on the Quran, tear the Quran and step on the Quran and the Bible," he said.

Dr Mahathir said: "Let us ask ourselves why this has happened when such a thing never happened before. What makes it more sad is that the majority of these students, involved in such unusual activities, are from religious schools.

"Is it that our religion calls on us to be involved in such activities...surely not. There must be something which leads them in being prepared to reject the religion and be involved in activities based on anti-religion and anti-establishment philosophy," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that there must be reasons why the youths could be easily influenced and their resilience undermined to lead them to be involved in activities which were against the religion.

"We must ask ourselves where we went wrong and let's not hide them. The guilty party will have to be identified so that we can put things right...let's not, due to other interests, cover up things that are wrong," he said.

He said that as a result of attempts to cover up things that were wrong, incidents that were happening now like activities rejecting religion by the youths would become widespread and more of them would copy them.

"What will happen to our society in future which will comprise those lacking in knowledge, failing to uphold religious teachings that they are prepared to do all sorts of things which are contrary to religion," he said.

As such, the prime minister said that as parents, it was their duty to ensure that their children become responsible citizens in future.

He said that teachers were also required to play a more effective role

to ensure that the problems affecting youths were overcome.

-- BERNAMA

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