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Mahathir-Chinese

UMNO HAS NO INTENSION OF 'KILLING' CHINESE, SAYS MAHATHIR

PENDANG, March 6 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today opposition parties were seeking to win Chinese votes when they allegedly claimed that they will defend the country's Chinese if Umno tried to "kill" the community.

The Prime Minister said the opposition parties were not only trying to gain Chinese support but also create racial tension.

He told reporters this when asked to elaborate on the matter after raising it in his speech at an Aidiladha feast at the Kampung Bendang Raja mosque near here.

"In the Internet, (PAS president Datuk) Fadzil Noor's political secretary had said that if Umno people want to kill the Chinese, they should kill their (PAS) people first," said Dr Mahathir.

Parti Keadilan Nasional information chief Ruslan Kassim had also made a similar statement, according to the Prime Minister.

"Ruslan Kassim said if Umno wants to kill the Chinese, they have to do it over his dead body," he said.

Denying the opposition parties' alleged claims, Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said:

"Umno has absolutely no intention of killing the Chinese although some people in Umno do not agree with the demands by (Chinese lobby group) Suqiu.

"Umno doesn't have any (such) intensions. But they (opposition parties) want to show the Chinese people that they will fight for them and were prepared to do anything for them. Because they want to get them (Chinese community) to hate Umno and the Government."

Dr Mahathir said opposition parties were prepared to make all sorts of accusations and create racial tension merely to get political support.

"They are prepared to tell lies. Just like Nik Aziz (Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat) who lied that God too has uttered profanities," he said.

They allegedly tell such lies because some people believe whatever they say, said Dr Mahathir

He said people should not be influenced by such lies and accusations by opposition parties as it could affect racial unity in the country.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir attended another Aidiladha feast at the Kampung Bukit Lada mosque in Pokok Sena.

-- BERNAMA

JM SK