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PM: Action against all extremists

Ramlan Said; Aionn Mohd

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said stern action against militants and extremists will not be confined to those from a certain religion only.

The Prime Minister said anyone involved in militancy and activities that could harm racial ties would have to face the law, regardless of their faith or race.

"This is proof that there is no double-standards. Action will not be confined to only the Malays and Muslims.

"If anyone tries to fan racial sentiments, the Government will not hesitate to act," he said after a Barisan Nasional supreme council meeting at Menara Dato' Onn.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, said there was unity in the coalition where all decisions were arrived at by consensus.

"There is no conflict although we are free to state our opinion. But once a decision is made, it is agreed by all."

Dr Mahathir said he also briefed council members on the recent declaration that Malaysia was an Islamic State.

"The concept of the Islamic state was explained and all stated that they had no problem with it."

Asked to comment on Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat's statement that those who voted for Pas could expect to be rewarded in heaven, Dr Mahathir remarked:

"What to do, there are some stupid people who can believe that a man can predict what's going to happen in the after-life ... no one can."

The Prime Minister was also asked whether Malaysia had received a formal apology from Indonesia over an incident where 500 Indonesian workers at a textile factory in Nilai rioted last week.

"As far as I am concerned, I have not received. Syed Hamid (Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar) has not told me anything, so I presume we have not received it."

On a report that Indonesia had despatched two officials to Malaysia to help resolve problems, Dr Mahathir said he had no information on the matter.

To a question on whether there was a link between the arrested members of the Kumpulan Militan Malaysia and Jemaah Islamiah Malaysia, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who was also present, said one could not draw a parallel with events in Singapore.

He said although the militants arrested in Singapore were members of the republic's Jemaah Islamiah, those arrested in Malaysia were not linked to the group.

news@nstp.com.my

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