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Mahathir-Laws

LAWS FORMULATED DO NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST RACES AND RELIGIONS, SAYS  
PM

KUCHING, July 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the government will always exercise fairness and justice and not formulate laws which discriminate against the various races and religions in the country.

He gave an assurance that the rights and well-being of the non-Muslims in the country would always be protected in accordance with the Federal Constitution.

Even though Malaysia had become an Islamic country since independence, non-Muslims had always been granted the freedom of worship, he said when opening the Masja (Masjid Jamek) Building, owned by the Board of Trustees of the Sarawak State Mosque (LAKMNS) in Petra Jaya here.

Dr Mahathir also said that the government never rejected the implementation of the Hudud (Islamic penal code) but was against the implementation of the Hudud as proposed by PAS.

"We are not rejecting divine laws, we are not rejecting the Hudud," he said, adding that objections raised were only against the imposition by PAS for political mileage.

The prime minister said that the Hudud as implemented by PAS does not reflect the true Islamic religion as it could be changed arbitrarily unlike divine laws.

He said that this was obvious when PAS had to make changes to its Hudud following protests which could cause the party to lose votes.

"This goes to show that the ballot is their God...votes determine the laws formulated by them," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that the difference between the implementation of the party's Hudud, in Kelantan and Terengganu, showed that PAS' actions were guided by politics and not religion.

He said that the glaring difference in terms of interpretation and provisions reflected the thinking of PAS which places emphasis on political support.

Earlier in his speech, Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said that the state government would continue to adopt Islamic principles but still protect the interest of the various races and religions in the state.

Abdul Taib, who is LAKMNS president, said that the construction of the RM60 million Masja Building was a token of the contribution of Muslims in the state's development.

Several state ministries and private companies will occupy the building.

-- BERNAMA

RDY CJ MT RM