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Mahathir-Incest

OFFENDERS TO BE CANED IN PUBLIC IF THE GOV'T GETS PEOPLE'S SUPPORT

SEPANG, April 22 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said public caning for incest offenders can be implemented if the government gets the people's support for it.

"We have not caned people in public before. But if the people want it, if everyone gives their mandate to the government, we can (implement it) because these people are not ashamed," he told reporters at the KL International Airport upon returning from a week-long visit to Morocco, Libya and Bahrain today.

The Prime Minister was asked to comment on the suggestion by various groups that incest offenders be caned in public as part of efforts to curtail the problem which had been widely reported lately.

Dr Mahathir said there were Malaysians who were no longer ashamed of committing not only incest but also other crimes such as stealing money including misappropriating funds from the Pilgrims Fund Board (Tabung Haji).

He was disappointed and saddened by the acts of some Muslims who committed incest which showed that their morals had deviated from Islamic teachings.

Harsher penalties did not guarantee that the offence would not be committed, said Dr Mahathir, citing the law on drug dealing as an example.

"Although there are laws providing for the death sentence for those convicted of drug smuggling, there are still people who do it," he said.

The Prime Minister said religious education and dakwah programmes carried out in the country apparently did not emphasise on the aspects of good morals and the question of sinful acts or otherwise was instead confined to politics or certain deeds only.

"Thus, they commit this abhorrant acts because of their shallow understanding of religion," he said.

He said incestuous acts could be prevented by instilling good values among members of the society which suited the prevailing development.

Dr Mahathir was asked whether such problems were aggravated by the distribution of pornographic materials which could also be obtained through the internet.

He said those who sold such materials were immoral people who only knew how to make profits.

"If we don't build a moral barrier to curb the pornographic materials, nothing much can be done by the government," he added.

-- BERNAMA

MAM AHH AO