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Mahathir-Hudud

PAS'S HUDUD LAWS ARE NOT JUST- DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 20 (Bernama) -- Muslims must reject the Hudud Laws drawn up by PAS as they are unjust and against Islamic teachings, the Prime Minister and Umno President, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said today.

He said if any law formulated by humanbeings, however learned or pious they might be, resulted in injustice for the people, then such laws were unIslamic.

"Hence Muslims must reject such laws drawn up by people with vested interests, which will surely lead to injustice, no matter what name they give to such laws," the Umno President said in his policy address when opening the Umno General Assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

The move by the PAS Government in Terengganu to implement its own brand of Hudud Laws had been opposed by various groups particularly by women's organisations which felt such laws were not based on correct Islamic Syariah.

Dr Mahathir said the objective of Islamic laws was to ensure a prosperous Islamic community free from injustice.

"In the Al-Quran there are many verses stressing the priority and importance of administering justice," he said.

In Islam if the meting out of punishment resulted in injustice it was because Muslims were more concerned about the method of meting out such punishment rather than ensuring justice, he said.

The wrong thing here was not Islamic teachings but the people who made their own interpretations of the teachings to serve their political interests, Dr Mahathir said.

The Terengganu PAS Government proposed to table the Hudud Law Bill in the state assembly on July 7.

The draft Bill, particularly Section 9, had been the subject of protest because it was considered cruel to women as those claiming rape but fail to produce four just witnesses, could be punished.

Dr Mahathir said persons who made laws to provide severe punishment for the rape victim and at the same free the rapist were not holding to the true Islamic teaching which called for justice.

He said if a woman was raped surely there would be signs of force being used or grounds that she had been forced into it.

"Today we can confirm this from the examination of the semen left in the victim and so identify the rapist," he said.

"Are we to ignore all these pieces of evidence simply because the procedure cannot be followed?"

He said a just punishment was exhorted by Islam as stressed in Surah An-Nisaa, the chapter especially devoted to women. In verses 58 and 112 it is stated that if anyone earned a fault or sin and threw it on the innocent, he carried on himself a falsehood and a flagrant sin.

"It is clear that persons who formulate unjust laws, who prosecute and punish unjustly, are committing wrong and are sinful. In the Al-Quran Allah has stressed many times that punishment must be just," he said.

He said God had promised that people who caused Islam to be despised by others for being unjust, due to their interpretations would have to answer for their sins in the hereafter.

Dr Mahathir reiterated that the assumption in many non-Islamic countries that Malays and Malaysia were moderate from the aspect of their

Islamic faith was unfounded altogether.

"We are not moderate Muslims. We are Muslim fundamentalists...that is we are steadfastly holding to the fundamental Islamic teachings based on the Al-Quran and Hadis," he said.

He said the true fundamental Islamic teachings would definitely make the Malays better and successful people.

Islam exhorts its followers to be united, knowledgeable, keep away from sin and be just and ensure their wellbeing in this world and seek heavenly reward.

"But many of us, Malays, who are all Muslim, tend to follow our disires, invent and interpret Islamic teachings to justify our actions which are against the teachings of our religion," he said.

On the debate about Malaysia's position as an Islamic state, Dr Mahathir said there was no need for this debate to continue.

"It does not bring anything good because the highest consideration is not given to the realities, to truth but to the political objectives of certain parties."

Dr Mahathir said that the government's move in stating that Malaysia was a Muslim nation was because it did not want the matter to be made a political issue which could split the Muslims in Malaysia.

"We did not make this statement in order to be endorsed by a particular party which gives priority to politics only."

"This party is prepared to declare that people who do not support it are infidels, people who vote for it will go to heaven and many other things."

"If all these which are obviously wrong and against the teachings of Islam they were capable of saying, will they then accept the statement that Malaysia is an Islamic nation?Obviously not."

"There is no need to amend Malaysia's Constitution to make the country an Islamic state. Malaysia is already an Islamic state," he said.

What needed to be done was to ensure that this country was not led astray by groups with vested political interests.

The Prime Minister in his speech which lasted nearly two hours, said the Islamic world held Malaysia in high esteem and had openly declared it a model Islamic state in view of its just administration and development and its strong faith in Islam.

"The Islamic world regards Malaysia as a model Islamic state not because of the people who use the religion to serve their own political interest and that of their party," he said.

He also said PAS was promoting politics of hatred by making sweeping allegations against Federal leaders while their followers accepted wholly these claims without demanding for proof or explanation.

This kind of politics destroyed the noble values taught by Islam such as being grateful, thankful and brotherly, he said.

-- BERNAMA

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