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Mahathir-PAS

PAS HAS BETRAYED ISLAM, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

MARANG, Aug 16 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the people must reject PAS because it is not an Islamic party but a party that has betrayed Islam.

The prime minister said that the numerous statements made by PAS leaders which contradicted Islamic teachings, like saying that God is a hoodlum, that God swears and is the biggest thug, clearly showed that PAS had used the religion for its own political interest.

These statements showed that the PAS leaders were not ulama but were people who had lost their way and must be rejected by their followers.

"It's a sin to insult God and apply human characteristics to Him...it's true that God is greater than humans but more in terms of good than bad.

"PAS's followers are lost and have sinned...whoever does not reject the claims that God is a hoodlum and the biggest thug and that He swears, has sinned although he claims to be an ulama," he said at a meeting with the people and the opening of the state Barisan Nasional Convention at Sekolah Menengah Tun Telanai, here. The convention starts tomorrow.

This is Dr Mahathir's first visit to Terengganu to attend a party function since the last general election in 1999.

Dr Mahathir said he had consulted several foreign ulama about these claims by the PAS leaders and they all felt that the statement had overstepped the boundaries and strayed from the true Islamic teachings.

"The foreign ulama said that they should not go to such extent to gain influence, don't insult God...their place is in hell, the worst hell in fact, because they have betrayed Islam which is pure and free from all uncleanness and evil," he said.

He said PAS was not an Islamic party because Islam taught its followers to be united and to foster brotherly ties but PAS only hurled slander to disunite the Muslims and the society in Malaysia.

"Actually, this (PAS) is not an Islamic party... its real name is Parti Aslam Malaysia. This Aslam is PAS's religion and to the Aslams, they have a right to worship a violent God, a God who is a hoodlum. We Muslims don't worship a God who is a hoodlum, our God is a loving and forgiving one," he said.

Dr Mahathir said all these things happened because of groups which had hijacked the religion and used it for political mileage to confuse the people to support them.

He said PAS had spread the slander to show that it was Islamic and that Umno was not and it was even prepared to claim that to become Muslims the Malays must be PAS members or supporters.

"This goes against Islamic teachings. PAS only exists in Malaysia, (so, according to them) there are only Muslims in Malaysia when we know that there are 1.3 billion Muslims in the world.

"Just because they want to label Umno as kafir (infidel) because we don't join their party, they are labelling all Muslims in the world as kafir because all the Muslims in the world are not PAS member nor support PAS as there is no PAS in their countries," he said.

He said PAS's claim that the people could enter heaven by voting for the party was a big lie which should not have been made by people who were well-versed in religion.

"Those who follow PAS are just as sinful and will receive their punishment in the hereafter...don't think (that one) can enter heaven by

crossing PAS. It is heresy to Islam. Islam does not depend on marking with a cross, it depends on our religious observance," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that to PAS, goodness was not important but hatred was and what they had done was to make the people hate the government.

He said the PAS leaders were also insincere and always used religion as a front, including in their dressing, to hoodwink the people and project themselves as ulama.

He said PAS leaders also twisted the Quranic verses to show that they were correct when in fact they had sinned by claiming that God used profanities.

"These are not ulama. (Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri) Haji Hadi (Awang) may wear the turban and robe but that doesn't show that he is really an ulama.

"The people of Terengganu should reject these misguided (leaders). They are really lost, save Terengganu from these ignorant people, people who criticise and insult Allah," he said.

He said it was a big responsibility for Umno members, as Muslims, to correct these lost souls.

On Kelantan Menteri Besar Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat's statement that if Prophet Muhammad were still alive, he would have gone to Kelantan because that state administered Islamic rule, Dr Mahathir said the prophet would have wanted to go to Kelantan because there were ignorant groups there for him to Islamise.

He said that if Prophet Muhammad were still alive, he would have loved to stay in Kelantan because his focus was to re-Islamise those who had been led astray and instigated by PAS.

He said Nik Aziz's claim that God used profanities was solely to defend Shahnun Ahmad who had written the book, "Shit", which contained profanities.

"I have repeatedly asked Nik Aziz to show where in the Quran God had used such words. Which Quran did he read...until now, there's no reply," he said.

-- BERNAMA
SN RAR MAI JK