

22 AUG 2002

Mahathir-PAS

PAS USING AL-ARQAM'S TECHNIQUE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

NILAI, Aug 22 (Bernama) -- PAS's technique to gain influence is the same as the Al-Arqam's, that is, to get its followers obsessed with the party thorough whatever means, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"Its teachings differ from that of the Arqam but its technique is the same, that is, to get its people so obsessed with it that they will accept it even if it does something wrong," he said.

The prime minister said that was why the PAS members accepted it when a fellow member exposed himself during the Pendang and Anak Bukit by-elections in Kedah recently.

"If Muslims see a person doing such a thing, he will be rejected but PAS members accept people who expose themselves while at the same time they tell people to wear the headscarf," he told a media conference after performing the ground-breaking ceremony for Kolej Universiti Islam Malaysia (KUIM), here.

Dr Mahathir said such a situation could not be allowed to prevail because when they became obsessed, it would be difficult to bring such people back to the true Islamic teachings.

"If they want to support PAS, it is alright, but they must reject anything that is not consistent with the teaching of Islam," Dr Mahathir said when asked about the role of the society in rejecting deviationist teachings.

He said the Muslims were now exposed to a form of campaigning designed to confuse them to change their perception of Islam and God.

"All this while we pray to a God who is ever loving and all forgiving but now we are told that the God we pray to is a gangster and cheat. This is blasphemy." he said.

"If I say that you are a cheat, does that mean that I honour you? But this kind of teaching has developed, meaning that many Muslims are confused about the true Islam because of political interest," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he hoped that the true Islamic teachings were imparted to the students of KUIM and political lecturers were not brought into the university to destroy the faith of its students.

Earlier, in his speech, Dr Mahathir said that KUIM was another effort by the government to provide knowledge on Islam to the students, irrespective of thier religion.

It was an extension of the government's earlier efforts which had established various institutions to provide Islamic understanding to the people, right from the school up to the university level.

He said the Muslims were oppressed today because the majority of them were unable to equip themselves with skills and the weapons to defend their country.

"When the purchase of weapons depends on Islam's enemies, surely they (the enemies) will not supply the Islamic nations with weapons that can defeat them," he said.

He said KUIM would work to enhance knowledge in science, technology and engineering for the benefit of the Muslims.

"Don't sabotage this pure effort of ours by bringing in elements to divert our students. Islam advocates what's true and good. There's no Islamic teaching that tells us to do something bad," he said.

KUIM is the 12th public university in the country. It was set up with the objective to generate and integrate Islamic education in the mainstream

of the national education system.  
-- BERNAMA  
AZH JK