

PM: Wrong religious teachings to blame for rising crime rate

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JELI: Religious education not focused on real Islamic teachings has led to an increased crime rate among Muslims in the country, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Prime Minister said many students who went to religious schools were not taught Islamic values but instead received more emphasis on politics.

He expressed his embarrassment that over 90% of incest and sexual offenders were Malays although they formed only 60% of the population.

"This is because the people have not been taught Islam properly but were instead indoctrinated by SAR (people's religious schools) to hate other Muslims. For Umno members who have children in SAR, please take them out to prevent their young lives from being damaged," he said when addressing the crowd who gathered to greet him at SMK Ayer Lanas here.

Dr Mahathir said one reason why the Government withdrew its support for SAR was to prevent them from cheating it.

He also said it was the Government's intention to teach Muslim children the real Islamic values so that they would become pious and progressive Muslims.

There were some Muslims who used religion and issued statements contrary to Islamic teachings to get votes during elections, he said.

Later, Dr Mahathir presented financial aid to six families whose breadwinners had been killed by tigers in separate incidents in the past three years, as well as to Abdullah Mamat, 40, who survived a tiger attack in August last year.

Schoolchildren from families earning less than RM500 per month were given RM120 each as part of the state education department's aid for the poor.

Later in Kota Baru, Dr Mahathir said transparency was an overrated virtue when it came to share market transactions.

"Of late, there had been murmurings that the operations of Valuecap Sdn Bhd is not transparent. But I want to ask: Who is transparent?"

"Do you know who buys and sells shares until the value of shares drops below a company's (net asset) value,

and causes the share market index to fall drastically and cause problems to many firms, including government holdings like Khazanah and PNB?"

Dr Mahathir said the Government was correct in intervening (through Valuecap) when the prices of shares were far below their real worth (as measured by asset value) and the company's profitability.

"Everyone knows that Valuecap was established to look after our interests. As such, if the value of shares belonging to government-owned institutions like Khazanah, PNB, Tabung Haji and so on drop on account of other people's

actions, then we have every right to defend the prices of those counters.

"Someone decides to sell them low to cause prices to fall and we are merely picking them up from the market. So, we don't need to announce to anyone what counters we are buying up, but we let market forces decide.

"But strangely, until today, no one from the press has asked who is behind the drop in share prices. Why has no one asked whether that is transparent? Does the press know who is selling what? You don't know because (the process) is not transparent," he said.