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Mahathir-Hadi

DR M QUESTIONS HADI'S RIGHT FOR CALLING UMNO ULAMAS "SYAITAN BISU"

JITRA, Sept 7 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad questioned the right of PAS Acting President Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang to call Umno ulamas as "syaitan bisu" (silent devils).

The Prime Minister said Hadi cannot make such an accusation as it is yet to be proven to be true or otherwise.

He said Hadi, who is also Terengganu Menteri Besar, should state his reasons as what prompted him to make such an allegation.

"What's his right to label Umno ulamas as syaitan (devils), is he God? Does he know he is right or wrong. He cannot make accusations like that," he told reporters when asked to comment on Hadi's statement that the term "syaitan bisu" he used at the Terengganu State Assembly last week was directed at Umno ulamas and not the police.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after attending a closed-door meeting with Barisan Nasional (BN) leaders in the Kubang Pasu parliamentary constituency. Dr Mahathir is the Member of Parliament for Kubang Pasu.

He said that instead Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, who "associates with devils" and that was why he said God used profanities.

"We know that Nik Aziz befriends even devils as long as he wins the election. It is because he is a friend of the devils, Nik Aziz can say all sorts of things like God uses profanities," he said.

Asked whether action could be taken against PAS leaders for making such statements which could harm public peace, Dr Mahathir said action could be taken if there was incriminating evidence.

He, however, said the action might create problems to the country as opposition party supporters could capitalise on the action taken against their leaders as an excuse to cause trouble in the country.

Asked on his meeting with BN leaders in Kubang Pasu, Dr Mahathir said among matters he touched were asking them to support whoever was picked as the BN candidate for Kubang Pasu in the general election.

Dr Mahathir, who will retire next month, said the support was important to ensure victory and for BN to continue to remain as the government in the country.

To a question on whether there would be an increase or reduction in taxes in next year's Budget to be tabled on Sept 12, Dr Mahathir, who is also Finance Minister, said: "Wait for the day."

"Be patient, if I reveal now, I'll have nothing to say on that day," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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