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Mahathir-Crime

LACKING IN REAL ISLAMIC EDUCATION HAS LED MUSLIMS TO CRIME - DR M

JELI, Jan 16 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today religious education not focused on the real Islamic teachings has led to increased crime rate among Muslims in the country.

The Prime Minister said many of those attending religious education in religious schools were not taught the Islamic values, but instead more emphasis was given to politics, which was opposed to Islam.

"I feel sad and shameful when I see the crime figures involving Muslims in Malaysia. Of the total number of incest cases, 54 are Muslims, only two are Chinese and three Indians.

"This is because they are not taught the noble Islamic values. What they are taught is to hate others," he said when speaking at a leader-with-the-people gathering at Sekolah Kebangsaan Air Lanas, here.

Dr Mahathir said Muslims, who received the real Islamic education, would become disciplined individuals and when they attained adulthood, they could control themselves and their desires from committing acts forbidden by Islam.

He said absence of the correct religious education had caused many Muslims to commit crime.

"Drugs, rape, incest...why, why such things happen, because we from the beginning do not teach the meaning of the sanctity of Islam and there is no sincerity in teaching Islam.

"Instead, our children are taught the reverse from what is preached by Islam," he said.

Dr Mahathir said it was the government's intention to teach Muslim children in schools with the real Islamic values so that they would become pious and progressive Muslims.

He said there were some Muslims who took the advantage to use Islam and issue statements contrary to Islamic teachings merely to get votes in the election.

On Pas-led Kelantan and Terengganu state governments said to implement the Islamic administration system, Dr Mahathir said the two states were not Islamic states that could be considered as role models.

"People in Kelantan are in abject poverty and the surroundings in the state are dirty. In Terengganu, the beaches have now become very dirty... is this Islamic teachings? Islam actually teaches Muslims to be always clean," he said.

He said claims that Kelantan and Terengganu were Islamic states were actually lies as no foreign country had said the two states were role models of Islamic states.

He also said the federal government cannot accept the hudud law to be implemented in Kelantan and Terengganu because it was not based on the real Islamic law.

"We cannot accept PAS' hudud law because all laws of the God are fair and just. If there are laws that are unjust, they are not laws of God. (They are) laws of Hadi and Nik Aziz because they want votes," he said.

At the gathering, Dr Mahathir presented cash aid to the next-of-kin and victims of tiger attacks last year and to 20 poor students.

They are part of the 87,000 students in Kelantan who will receive RM120 each to meet their school expenses.

-- BERNAMA

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