

07 SEP 2003

Mahathir-PAS

PAS WANTS PEOPLE TO BE STUPID SO THAT IT CAN EASILY FOOL THEM- DR M

JITRA, Sept 7 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said today PAS is intent on others becoming stupid so that it can easily fool them.

Hence he urged people to become knowledgeable so that they could not be fooled by PAS which wanted the country to remain backward to facilitate the spreading of its propaganda.

"If we do not have knowledge, we will become stupid and anyone can cheat us. PAS people are the biggest cheats," he said when addressing the residents of Jitra state constituency at Sekolah Kebangsaan Sri Banai, Wang Tepus, near here.

Also present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Jitra assemblyman Prof Datuk Dr Othman Ishak.

Dr Mahathir said PAS did not want Malaysia, which was recognised by the world as an Islamic state, to become developed and so was inciting university students not to study but to struggle for the party.

The Prime Minister reminded university students to focus on their studies and not to be influenced by the PAS propaganda.

"If students do not want to study and are attracted by politics, then we will withdraw their scholarships... if they do not do well in their studies. They have gone against their pledge to study," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the government held firmly to Islamic teachings and put up school buildings while PAS erected "pondoks" to serve its political interests so that the thinking of those who went to these "pondoks" would remain backward and old-fashioned.

The Prime Minister also urged Malaysians to change their lifestyle to one which was healthier by keeping their surroundings clean like the people in developed countries.

He said Malaysia now had become big with a population of nearly 25 million and had the facilities like that in developed countries.

Dr Mahathir said the people should take the trouble to keep their house surroundings clean as keeping such places neat and tidy was not the sole responsibility of the government.

The people should not litter the roads with paper and broken glass and expect the government to do the cleaning up.

The government was not in a position to appoint someone to follow these litter bugs along the road and collect whatever rubbish and garbage they threw along the route.

"Throwing rubbish along the road not only pollutes the surroundings but also will bring diseases," he said and referred to the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) which could spread through the habit of spitting any and everywhere.

He hoped the people would take pride in a clean surrounding and urged them to emulate Japan in keeping the surroundings clean.

The Japanese taught their children to maintain cleanliness and asked them to fold paper into smaller pieces and keep them in the trouser pockets until they found a garbage bin to throw it.

Teachers should also teach their pupils to become noble citizens who would bring honour to the race, religion and country, he said.

At the function, the Prime Minister handed over gifts to outstanding students as well as orphans and old folks from the Kubang Pasu Parliamentary constituency.

-- BERNAMA  
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