

13 SEP 2003

Mahathir-UN

UN'S TOP PRIORITY IS TO RESOLVE PALESTINIAN ISSUE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 13 (Bernama) -- The United Nations should give top priority to resolving the Palestinian issue, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the root cause of the issue was territorial dispute and not religion.

"Their (Palestinians) land has been taken. They have been chased from their homes and the Israelites occupied their settlements," he told a media conference after chairing the Barisan Nasional (BN) Supreme Council meeting here today.

Therefore, he said, the causes must be removed and "it is very simple (to resolve the issue)."

He was commenting on the role the UN should play now in settling the Palestinian issue.

However, Dr Mahathir felt that the UN could do nothing much in settling the issue unless the big powers honour their words.

The Prime Minister said it was sad to note that the UN was the most undemocratic organisation and "these undemocratic people have no moral right to tell others to become democratic."

Dr Mahathir said that he does not share the same view as PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang that Islam allows suicide attacks by the Palestinian people to solve the issue.

Abdul Hadi was reported to have said that Islam allows such act even though it resulted in the death of members of the public.

The Prime Minister said such acts were not in accordance with the teachings of Islam.

"Fighting is one thing, but if you go on board a school bus and kill all the schoolchildren, I don't think it is a brave move," he said.

Although the Palestinians have to fight without proper arms in defending their independence, he said, it was wrong to opt for suicide attacks especially when killing innocent people.

On PAS' stand in strongly supporting Hamas, Dr Mahathir said it showed that PAS was prepared to support bombing and killing of innocent civilians.

Answering question on PAS' shadow cabinet for the coming general election, the Prime Minister said: "They also have a shadow budget. Sure they can, funded by others."

He said that PAS does not have the capacity to treat water in Kelantan and Terengganu and they were thinking of running the country.

-- BERNAMA

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