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# 'DR M'S WORDS WILL WEAKEN UMMAH'

Only Allah can decide whether one's haj is accepted or not, says Perak mufti

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**T**UN Dr Mahathir Mohamad's claim that haj pilgrims who were sponsored by the Prime Minister-IMalaysia Development Bhd Foundation Special Haj Programme were not *mabrur* (accepted) could cause disunity among Muslims.

Perak Mufti Tan Sri Dr Harussani Zakaria said the accusation would not only weaken the *ummah*, but also

cause chaos among Muslims.

"Such an irresponsible comment would disunite Muslims.

"Why would he be the one to decide, when it is decided by Allah? It is not his job to decide whether one's haj is accepted or not, so please do not take over Allah's task.

"I advise Dr Mahathir, at his age, to refrain from spreading slander, to pray and repent to Allah before he dies," Harussani said yesterday, adding that the sin of slander was heftier than murder.

He said Dr Mahathir's claim that IMDB funds used to sponsor pilgrims' haj came from an illegal source was difficult to accept.

"He should know that the sponsorship for haj pilgrims has come from a special allocation since four

years ago, even before the IMDB issue was highlighted. I know a few imam who were chosen to join the programme back then."

He said the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's investigations into IMDB found no evidence of wrongdoing.

In **Alor Star**, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah criticised Dr Mahathir for "acting desperate" by belittling the government's effort to sponsor haj pilgrims through IMDB.

He said it was unbecoming of a former prime minister to claim that those who used IMDB's "illicit" money to perform their pilgrimage would not have their haj "accepted".

He said as an elder, Dr Mahathir should not issue statements on religious matters according to his

whims and fancies.

"Lately, he has been making all sorts of *hukum* (laws). First, he says BRIM (IMalaysia People's Aid) is a form of bribery, and recently, he alleges that those sponsored to perform the haj under IMDB does not deserve to attain a *mabrur* haj.

"He is desperate. He is harping on religious sentiments to bring down the government. Regardless of who sponsors the haj, our duty is to pray for it to be accepted by Allah. It is not up to him (Dr Mahathir) to decide.

"It is the government's obligation to provide aid like BRIM to the rakyat as it is a way to ease the people's burden," he said after visiting Year One pupils at SK Mergong, who began school yesterday.

It was reported that Dr Mahathir, who is also Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia chairman, made the statement during a rally in Taman Wira Mergong here recently.

He claimed that the purity of IMDB-funded haj pilgrimages was questionable as the money was allegedly stolen. He also alleged that BRIM was a form of bribery to win votes.

The IMDB Foundation sponsored 111 mosque committee members to perform the haj in 2011, and the number increased to 400 the next year. In 2013, 800 pilgrims were sponsored, followed by 1,000 in 2014

and 1,200 last year. Last year, 150 imam and Village Security Development Committee members from Sarawak participated in IMDB's haj programme.



TAN SRI DR  
HARUSSANI ZAKARIA



DATUK SERI AHMAD  
BASHAH MD  
HANIPAH

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