

PM: POLICE WILL PROBE ZAKIR

They will determine if he's causing racial tension, says Dr M

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POLICE will investigate if controversial Muslim preacher Dr Zakir Naik is causing racial tension in the country. Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said it was "quite clear" in his speeches that the Mumbai-born preacher had sought to participate in racial politics.

"You can preach. But he wasn't doing that.

"He was talking about sending the Chinese back to China and the Indians back to India. That's political."

Dr Mahathir said this after opening the 62nd World Statistics Congress here yesterday.

He said Zakir, as a permanent resident (PR) of Malaysia, was not allowed to participate in politics.

"In the first place, I don't know who gave him the PR."

It was reported that Zakir received his PR status seven years ago.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians were quite careful when it came to sensitive issues involving different communities.

"I have never said such things. If he wants to talk about religion, go ahead, but

talk about the right things on religion, not something that is cooked up.

"It is clear he wants to participate in racial politics in Malaysia.

"He is stirring up racial feelings. That is bad.

"Because of that, I think the police would have to investigate whether he's causing tension. Obviously he is.

"Whatever action we take would be in accordance with the rule of law. This government respects the rule of law."

It was reported that during his ceramah in Kota Baru last Thursday, Zakir had compared Hindus in Malaysia with Muslims in India, by claiming that Hindus here enjoyed 100 times more rights than Muslims in India.

He had alleged that Hindus here were more loyal to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi than Dr Mahathir.

Zakir had called on Chinese Malaysians to "go back" first as they were the "old guests" of the country.

Dr Mahathir, who is Pakatan Harapan (PH) chairman, said only a "blind, deaf and dumb person" would think that there was no difference between the PH and

Barisan Nasional governments.

"Is it true? Did we borrow RM42 billion? Do we have our own 1MDB (1Malaysia Development Bhd)? Did I steal money? Did I bribe people?"

"Prove it. If I bribed people, you can take me to court and charge me.

"But they say that (we're) no different (than BN)."

Dr Mahathir, who is Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia chairman, said the PH government had placed a two-term limit on the prime minister's post, and allowed a debate on 1MDB, something the previous BN government did not do.

"People do not appreciate the good things they receive.

"They only see the bad things because maybe they want to bring down this government."

It was similar to the issue of teaching khat (Jawi calligraphy) in schools, he said.

He said the learning and teaching of khat were optional.

"If you don't want it, you don't have to take it.

"What's wrong with people who want to take it? It's their choice."