

'Dong Zong stirring the pot'

PM: Legal action possible if group keeps provoking the people

PETALING JAYA: If Chinese educationist group Dong Zong keeps instigating the people by playing up Chinese education issues, then it is going against the law and legal action can be taken against the movement, says Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"It is going against the law. We have freedom of speech, but we are always sensitive about not instigating people to fight with each other.

"Dong Zong is only talking about one community, forgetting that this is a multi-racial country.

"It is for the police to decide (to ban Dong Zong)," said Dr Mahathir when asked to comment on the petition by youth movement Gerakan Pengundi Sedar to ban Dong Zong for opposing the teaching of Jawi calligraphy in vernacular schools.

He repeated his statement that Dong Zong was a racist organisation that only fought for the Chinese.

"It has never fought for Malaysians but only for one race. This is a multi-racial country.

"You must also take care of other people's feelings. When we do something, we must think what other races will say. If they are hot happy, we must accommodate them.

"Dong Zong has never said a word about Malaysia, but they always talk about Chinese education.

"Even when I proposed the Sekolah Wawasan (Vision Schools) to bring people together, they objected to that because it would mean Malay children mixing with Chinese children.

"It's very racist for the children (not to mix). What is wrong with the Chinese and Malays mingling together? When I was in school, there were all races - it was okay," he said.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to the media after attending the 21st anniversary celebration of the Kuala



All smiles: Dr Mahathir posing for a selfie with secondary school students following the Civic Education launch at Puspanitapuri in Putrajaya. — Bernama

Lumpur International Airport organised by Malaysia Airports Berhad yesterday.

On the issue of preacher Dr Zakir Naik, who said Hindus in Malaysia were more loyal to the Indian Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir said one should ask Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi if this was so.

He also said Malaysia could not deport Zakir to his home country, where he was wanted, as he ran the risk of being killed.

"If any country wants to have him, they are welcome to," said Dr Mahathir.

In Putrajaya, Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik was tight-lipped when asked if the khat issue would be raised by the DAP ministers in the Cabinet meeting today.

"I'm a member of Bersatu, not DAP. You should ask a DAP minister," he said after the Civic Education launch by Dr Mahathir yesterday.

Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng

had said on Monday that he would raise the khat issue again during the Cabinet meeting today.