

Umno Condemns Film And Cartoon Humiliating Prophet Muhammad
Bernama
September 20, 2012

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- Umno today strongly condemned the production and screening of the anti-Islam film, 'Innocence of Muslims', and the cartoon humiliating Prophet Muhammad in a French magazine, 'Charlie Hebdo' which had caused anger among Muslims worldwide, including in Malaysia.

Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said it was an unacceptable act although made in the name of freedom of speech which is strongly upheld by the Western community, although it had tainted the sanctity of Islam and the dignity of Prophet Muhammad SAW.

The Prime Minister said, however, in defending the sanctity of Islam, the Muslims must adopt a courteous approach in expressing their dissatisfaction and protest against the film and cartoon.

"Protests by Muslims in a violent and extreme manner on this issue to the extent of causing deaths, injury and destruction to property should be avoided. This is because Islam does not encourage the use of force in resolving problems," he told reporters after chairing the Umno Supreme Council meeting, here.

On the other hand, Najib said, dialogues and cooperation between the communities to instil tolerance and understanding must always be maintained as propagated by Malaysia through the Global Movement of Moderates (GMM).

Najib said the Umno Supreme Council was today informed that a peaceful demonstration would be held by the Umno Youth movement outside the Kampung Baru Mosque, tomorrow and "we hope to show our protest that cannot be suppressed on the issue."

Commenting on the apology by Perak DAP chairman Datuk Ngeh Koo Ham today, and the withdrawal of the statement on his twitter that questioned the action of Muslims in protesting against the film 'Innocence Of Muslims' which humiliated and slandered Prophet Muhammad SAW and Islam, Najib said:

"On religious issues, we don't say anything and subsequently apologise when we detect that it had caused much anger. If that is the case, then it is easy.

"We too can do likewise. We can make humiliating statements or criticise other religions, after that we tender our apology. If that is the case, the question is then whether we are truly serious or otherwise," he said.

In his twitter, Ngeh was alleged to have questioned the plan by Umno Youth head Khairy Jamaluddin to stage a protest against the video clip, and concluded whether the Muslims were spending too much time and efforts on the issue.

Meanwhile, Najib also denied that he had issued a letter on the appointment of Datuk Prof Madya Dr Mizan Hitam as the Deputy Rector of Student Affairs, International Islamic University (IIU).

In fact, he described it as an act by certain groups who were desperate to use any method to create public anger against him and Umno by spreading lies.

"Through a letter, purportedly from me as Umno president writing to UIA Rector. The letter is a slander. I strongly deny it. In fact, I had never issued any party letter to any university.

"You can confirm (this matter) with the Higher Education Ministry (KPT) and the university concerned," he said when asked about the circulation of the letter using the Umno letterhead and signed by him, which was addressed to UIA Rector Prof Dr Zaleha Kamaruddin.

The letter was to state the appointment of Dr Mizan Hitam as the Deputy Rector of Student Affairs, UIA in place of Prof Dr Nik Ahmad Kamal Nik Mahmood with immediate effect.

Najib also said that he would lodge a police report on the matter.

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