

MAHATHIR - HOSPITAL
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KUALA LUMPUR, JAN. 14 (BERNAMA) - DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT HE WELCOMED THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN ISLAMIC HOSPITAL IN THE COUNTRY, AND SUGGESTED THAT IT BE FUNDED BY MUSLIMS THEMSELVES.

THE PROPOSAL WAS MADE BY WELFARE MINISTER HAJJAH AISHAH GHANI LAST YEAR.

SPEAKING AT A FORUM ON +MEDICAL ISSUES IN THE ISLAMIC COMMUNITY+ AT UNIVERSITI MALAYA, DR. MAHATHIR SAID SUCH A HOSPITAL SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO MUSLIM PATIENTS ALONE AS OTHERWISE IT WOULD TARNISH THE ISLAMIC RELIGION.

IN STRESSING THE NEED FOR MUSLIMS TO FINANCE THE PROPOSED HOSPITAL THROUGH ZAKAT AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, DR. MAHATHIR SAID +WE HAVE TOO MANY PROUD ISLAMIC SYMBOLS WHICH ACTUALLY SYMBOLISE THE EFFICIENCY, CAPABILITY AND WEALTH OF NON-MUSLIMS.

+LET US NOT MAKE THE ISLAMIC HOSPITAL ANOTHER ISLAMIC SYMBOL CREATED BY THE EFFICIENCY, INTELLIGENCE AND WEALTH OF NON-MUSLIMS.+
- BERNAMA MORE 2304/BW

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DR. MAHATHIR SAID WHAT WAS NOW TERMED AS WESTERN MEDICINE WAS ACTUALLY WESTERN IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF ISLAMIC MEDICINE.

UNFORTUNATELY, THIS FACT WAS SELDOM MENTIONED BY MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION BOTH IN THE WEST AND THE EAST AND THIS HAD RAISED ALL SORTS OF DOUBTS AND SUSPICIONS AMONG MUSLIMS, ESPECIALLY THE MALAYS.

+THE RESULT WAS THAT AFTER HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF FOLLOWING THE ISLAMIC RELIGION, WE HAVE NOT STUDIED THIS SO-CALLED WESTERN MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE AND WE HAVE ALSO NOT ACCEPTED TREATMENT BASED ON THIS KNOWLEDGE, + HE SAID.

HE SAID, +TO DIMINISH FURTHER THE DOUBTS OF THIS SYSTEMATIC MEDICINE THAT WE KNOW PRACTISE, THE PROPOSAL TO HAVE AN ISLAMIC HOSPITAL IS MOST APT.+

IN VIEW OF THE TEACHINGS, ATTITUDES AND HISTORY OF ISLAM IN RELATION TO MEDICINE, IT WAS APPROPRIATE THAT MUSLIMS GAIN EXPERTISE IN AND PRACTISE THIS EFFECTIVE MEDICINE, DR. MAHATHIR SAID. - BERNAMA 2310/BW