

MAHATHIR-CONVENTION
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BANGI, MARCH 19 (BERNAMA) — DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT MALAYS WOULD DETERMINE THE OBJECTIVES TO OVERCOME BUMIPUTRA ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WITHOUT BEING INFLUENCED BY MARXIST AND SOCIALIST PHILOSOPHIES.

HAPPINESS AND AN EASY LIFE WERE NOT BASED SOLELY ON MATERIAL WEALTH, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE BUMIPUTRA CONVENTION ORGANISED BY THE UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA (UKM) AT ITS CAMPUS HERE.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THE THEORY THAT THE HISTORY OF MAN WAS ONE OF CONFLICT BETWEEN THE POOR AND THE RICH WAS UNTRUE.

+ MAN DOES NOT LIVE ONLY TO HARNESS WEALTH AS A MEANS OF GAINING HAPPINESS AND ENJOYMENT IN THIS WORLD,+ HE SAID.

+INSTEAD, THERE ARE OTHER VALUES, SUCH AS SPIRITUAL VALUES, WHICH CAN GIVE HAPPINESS+, HE POINTED OUT. —
BERNAMA MORE 1819/BY

MAHATHIR-CONVENTION 2 BANGI

DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, SAID HE HOPED THAT ON THE OTHER HAND MALAYS WOULD NOT REJECT ALL FORMS OF MATERIAL WEALTH AND CAMPAIGN TO ELIMINATE AFFLUENCE AND CONDEMN THE RICH.

HE SAID THAT MATERIAL RICHES NOT ONLY PROVIDED FOR LUXURIOUS LIVING BUT HELPED TO MAINTAIN BELIEF IN THE ISLAMIC RELIGION.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER STRESSED ON THE NEED FOR BUMIPUTRAS TO HAVE A PROPER PERSPECTIVE OF THE +POOR AND RICH+ PHENOMENON IF THEY WANTED TO CORRECT THE PRESENT ECONOMIC IMBALANCE.

+IF WE CONSIDER POVERTY AS UNFAIR WHILE WE ARE POOR, WE SHOULD NOT CRITICISE THE CHANGES THAT WERE BROUGHT ABOUT BY EFFORTS TO ERADICATE POVERTY.

+WE CANNOT TURN ALL THE POOR INTO THE RICH INSTANTLY+, HE SAID. —BERNAMA MORE 1821/BY

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MAHATHIR-CONVENTION 3 BANGI

DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR HIT OUT AT GROUPS WHICH CRITICISED WEALTH AS BEING MATERIALISTIC AND EFFORTS TO SEEK WEALTH AS ALMOST A CRIME.

HE SAID THAT HYPOCRISY PREVAILED IN ALL STRATA OF SOCIETY SO MUCH SO THAT THOSE WHO BECAME RICH THROUGH THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY CRITICISED MATERIAL WEALTH AS BEING IN CONFLICT WITH SPIRITUAL VALUES.

ON THE CONVENTION, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER REMINDED THE PARTICIPANTS THAT DISCUSSIONS BE CENTRED ON WHAT WAS REAL, SUCH AS THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

+THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY DOES NOT PLEDGE THAT EVERY BUMIPUTRA AND POOR PERSON WILL BE MADE RICH.

+THEREFORE, IF THERE ARE STILL BUMIPUTRAS WHO ARE NOT MILLIONAIRES IN 1990, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE POLICY HAS FAILED+, HE POINTED OUT. —BERNAMA MORE 1825/BY

MAHATHIR-CONVENTION 4 BANGI

DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO MAKE EFFORTS UNTIL ALL THE PEOPLE BENEFITTED IN SOME WAY.

HE HOPED THAT THE PARTICIPANTS WOULD NOT SELECT SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OR QUOTE A FEW STATISTICS AND DISMISS MORE THROUGH EVIDENCE.

HE DESCRIBED THIS PRACTICE AS INTELLECTUAL DISHONESTY, WHICH WOULD INFLUENCE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY TO DEPRECIATE HONEST EFFORTS.

+FURTHERMORE, POLITICIANS IN SEARCH OF POPULARITY WILL ALSO FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE AND LIE ALL THE TIME+, HE SAID.

URGING THE PARTICIPANTS TO UPHOLD THE TRUTH, DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR HOPED THAT THEY WOULD MAKE USE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERIOUSLY SEEK WAYS FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE BUMIPUTRA ECONOMY.

—BERNAMA MORE 1829/BY

MAHATHIR-CONVENTION 5 BANGI

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT SINCE INDEPENDENCE AND THE LAUNCHING OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY, MANY BUMIPUTRAS HAD RECEIVED MUCH BENEFIT, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY.

THIS FACT SHOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGED, HE SAID.

DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR ADVISED THE PARTICIPANTS NOT TO EXAGGERATE WHATEVER THEY HAD TO SAY.

+MANY OF US EASILY EXAGGERATE OR MAKE AN OVERSTATEMENT TO ATTRACT ATTENTION TO OUR THESIS.

+THIS WILL CREATE EMOTIONAL OVERREACTION WHICH WOULD DETER A PROPER APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM,+ HE SAID. —BERNAMA

MAHATHIR-CONVENTION 6 BANGI (RE-OPENS ITEM NO80)

EARLIER, THE UNIVERSITY'S VICE-CHANCELLOR, TAN SRI DR. ANWAR MAHMUD, SAID THE UNIVERSITY WAS THE APPROPRIATE PLACE TO HOLD THE CONVENTION BECAUSE AS A NATIONAL UNIVERSITY IT WAS INVOLVED IN EFFORTS TO HELP SOLVE NATIONAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS POVERTY. HE STRESSED THAT PROBLEMS FACED BY BUMIPUTRAS SHOULD BE SOLVED BY BUMIPUTRAS THEMSELVES.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR SAID THE UNIVERSITY HAD BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ASSISTING THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMY AND WAY OF LIFE OF BUMIPUTRAS.

AMONG THE DUTIES WAS THE PROVISION OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUMIPUTRAS TO PURSUE HIGHER STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY.

THE UNIVERSITY'S PRO-CHANCELLOR, TUN TAN SIEW SIN, THE PRESIDENT OF THE DEWAN NEGARA, TAN SRI OMAR YOKÉ LIN ONG, PERLIS MENTERI BESAR DATUK HAJI JAAFAR HASSAN AND THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA, TAN SRI HAMDAN SHEIKH TAHIR, WERE PRESENT. — BERNAMA 1024/ZCM