

MAHATHIR-SEMINAR
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BANGI, DEC. 2 (BERNAMA)—DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, TOLD INSTITUTES OF HIGHER LEARNING TODAY TO TAKE CARE THAT DEVIATIONARY PHILOSOPHIES DID NOT TAKE ROOT IN THE IR CAMPUS.

HE SAID THAT THE SPRINGING UP OF DEVIATIONARY RELIGIOUS THINKING IN THIS INSTITUTES WAS NOT IMPOSSIBLE AND THAT THE LIKELIHOOD OF IT HAPPENING SEEMED TO BE GETTING STRONGER OF LATE.

THIS WAS BECAUSE OF CERTAIN CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD, HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE SEMINAR ON "ISLAM IN ASEAN INSTITUTES OF HIGHER LEARNING" AT THE UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA (UKM) HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT FOR EXAMPLE, COMMUNIST CELLS WERE USUALLY ROOTED IN INSTITUTES OF HIGHER LEARNING WHICH LATER BECAME THE SEAT OF PLANNING FOR COMMUNIST STRATEGIES TO CREATE CONFUSION AND TAKE OVER THE COUNTRY.

"IT IS THEREFORE INCUMBENT UPON US TO ENSURE NO UNHEALTHY EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND UNDERSTANDING TAKE PLACE IN INSTITUTES OF HIGHER LEARNING, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO ISLAM."

—BERNAMA MORE HM 1527

MAHATHIR - SEMINAR 2 BANGI

HE SAID IT WAS EVIDENT THAT ISLAM WAS UNDERGOING AN ERA IN WHICH ITS FOLLOWERS WERE STRONGLY MOTIVATED TO CARRY OUT ITS TEACHINGS TO THE FULL.

ALTHOUGH THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS COULD PROMOTE THE GREATER GLORY OF THE RELIGION, IT COULD ALSO LEAD TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF DEVIATIONARY TEACHINGS.

THIS COULD BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRESENT SITUATION, WHERE ANYONE PROPOUNDING SOME SORT OF RELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING COULD GAIN CREDIBILITY AND HAVE HIS TEACHINGS ACCEPTED AND PRACTISED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR GAVE EXAMPLES WHERE THE DICTATES OF SUCH SELF-STYLED RELIGIOUS LEADERS THAT ISLAM WANTED ITS FOLLOWERS TO KEEP LONG HAIR, WEAR ONLY GREEN OR THROW OUT MODERN DEVICES LIKE TELEVISION SETS WERE ACCEPTED AND CARRIED OUT BY THEIR FOLLOWERS, "SOMETIMES WITH ARROGANCE."

HE FEARED THAT THIS KIND OF EXTREMIST ATTITUDE WOULD LEAD TO THE EMERGENCE OF A TRULY DEVIATIONARY AND HERETICAL RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHY.

—BERNAMA MORE HM 1530

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MAHATHIR-SEMINAR 3 BANGI

HE SAID THERE WERE SOME FANATICS WHO HAD REACHED THE STAGE OF PLANNING TO CARRY OUT VIOLENCE AND SEIZE POWER PURPORTEDLY BECAUSE +THIS WAS ONE OF THE WAYS DICATED BY ISLAM.+

THERE WERE ALSO SOME WHO MADE USE OF RELIGION FOR THEIR OWN INTERESTS.

AS A RESULT, THERE EMERGED UNHALLOWED RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS IN WHICH THE SO-CALLED LEADERS CLAIMED TO POSSESS SUPERNATURAL POWERS.

ON THE SEMINAR, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER WAS HAPPY IT INVOLVED THE PARTICIPATION OF OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES, SAYING THIS WAS ONE WAY OF FOSTERING TIES BETWEEN MUSLIMS IN THE REGION. —
BERNAMA 1530/AZ