

MAHATHIR - LEADERSHIP

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MORIB, DEC. 21 (BERNAMA)—LEADERSHIP MUST BE MOULDED AND NOT ALLOWED TO CROP UP LIKE MUSHROOMS TO ENSURE THE CREATION OF A HARMONIOUS SOCIETY, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE REAL OBJECTIVE OF A PERSON ASPIRING TO BECOME A LEADER COULD NOT BE DETERMINED IN THE EARLY STAGE AND BECAME APPARENT ONLY WHEN THE PERSON HAD ACQUIRED POSITION.

BY THIS TIME IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO WITHDRAW SUPPORT FOR THE PERSON AS HE BECAME MORE ENTERENCHED IN HIS POSITION, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT, SAID THIS IN A SPEECH OPENING A RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP COURSE ORGANISED BY THE UMNO YOUTH MOVEMENT HERE. THE SPEECH WAS READ BY UMNO SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK MUSTAFFA JABAR.

HE SAID THAT THE EXISTENCE OF LOYAL SUPPORTERS OF A LEADER WHO WOULD DEFEND HIM MADE IT ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE LEADER TO BE REMOVED.

ON THE OTHER HAND THE LEADER WOULD DEFEND HIS STAUNCH FOLLOWERS ALTHOUGH THEY COULD BE IN THE WRONG. --BERNAMA MORE 1231/MD

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MAHATHIR - LEADERSHIP 2 MORIB

THE SITUATION WOULD DETERIORATE AND ULTIMATELY COULD LEAD TO REBELLION AND POWER STRUGGLE, THUS DESTROYING SOCIETY.

AS LEADERSHIP MEANT CERTAIN PRIVILEGES, NOT ALL WHO ASPIRED TO BECOME LEADERS WERE INSPIRED BY VIRTUOUS INTENTIONS BUT INSTEAD WERE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE BENEFITS THEY WOULD GET.

DATUK MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT POSITIVE LEADERSHIP MUST BE MAINTAINED FOR THE WELL-BEING OF SOCIETY.

HE ALSO SPOKE ON THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF DISCIPLINE.

HE CITED THE EXAMPLE OF BOWMEN IN THE ISLAMIC ARMY WHO LACKED DISCIPLINE AND THUS LOST THE BATTLE OF UHUD.

ON THE OTHER HAND, BLIND DISCIPLINE AND THE CARRYING OUT OF ORDERS WITHOUT QUESTION COULD ALSO BE DISASTROUS AS IN THE CASE OF THE MASS SUICIDE OF FOLLOWERS OF THE +PEOPLE'S TEMPLE+ IN GUYANA RECENTLY. --BERNAMA 1235/MD