

FROM HASHIM MAKARUDDIN p

MANCHESTER, APRIL 19 (BERNAMA) <sup>79</sup>—DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID LAST NIGHT MALAYSIA'S EFFORTS IN PROMOTING INVESTMENTS IN THE COUNTRY HAD FULFILLED THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM.

HE DENIED THAT WHAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS DOING IN THIS DIRECTION WAS ANTI-ISLAM.

DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION RAISED DURING A DIALOGUE SESSION WITH MALAYSIAN STUDENTS AT SALFORD UNIVERSITY HERE. A LOT OF QUESTIONS DURING THE TWO-HOUR SESSION WERE CONFINED TO ISLAM AND ISLAMIC TEACHINGS.

DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS HERE ON AN INVESTMENT PROMOTION MISSION SAID THERE HAD BEEN WRONG INTERPRETATIONS OF ISLAMIC TEACHINGS AMONG SOME MALAYSIAN MUSLIMS.

HE SAID NOWADAYS EVERYONE CLAIMED THAT HE WAS A LEARNED MUSLIM +SOME WORK IN LONDON FOR THREE DAYS AND THEY CLAIM THEY ARE ALREADY GREAT MUSLIM SCHOLARS. WHEN THEY ARE AT HOME THEY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ISLAM, BUT ONCE THEY ARE HERE THEY KNOW ALL ABOUT IT. BUT I DON'T KNOW WHETHER LONDON IS A HOLY PLACE OR NOT, + HE REMARKED. —BERNAMA MORE 1230/MD

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THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT WHEN THESE PEOPLE RETURNED HOME THEY RETURNED WITH MISSIONARY FEVER AND TRIED TO CONVERT PEOPLE WHOSE RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE WAS SHALLOW.

HE ALSO TOLD THE STUDENTS THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF MUSLIMS IN MALAYSIA WHO BELIEVED THAT TO BE GOOD MUSLIMS THEY HAD TO +THROW THEIR TV SETS INTO THE RIVER FIRST OR THAT THEY MUST PUT ON ISLAMIC ATTIRE.+

THERE WERE ALSO CERTAIN GROUPS, HE ADDED, WHO BELIEVED THAT THEY WERE SUPERIOR AND INFERIOR MUSLIMS.

+THIS IS WRONG, FOR WHEN YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE SUPERIOR YOU ARE ARROGANT AND THERE IS NO PLACE IN ISLAM FOR ARROGANCE,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA'S RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT WANTED TO ENSURE THAT THERE WAS NO PROPOGATION OF ANY WRONG ISLAMIC TEACHINGS IN THE COUNTRY.

HE ALSO DENIED THAT MALAYSIA WAS NOT MOVING TOWARDS ISLAM. +WE PRACTISE ISLAM WITHIN OUR MEANS AND IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PRACTISE IT TO THE EXTENT OF 100 PERCENT WHEN THE COUNTRY HAS A SIZEABLE NON-MUSLIM POPULATION,+ HE EXPLAINED. —BERNAMA MORE

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HE ALSO SAID THAT NO COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, NOT EVEN SAUDI ARABIA, COULD PRACTICE 100 PERCENT ISLAM.

ISLAM, HE ADDED, DID NOT PERMIT THE GOVERNMENT TO BE OPPRESSIVE MERELY BECAUSE IT WANTED TO IMPLEMENT ISLAMIC LAWS.

HOWEVER, WHEN COMPARED TO OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH HAD A MAJORIT MUSLIM POPULATION, MALAYSIA WAS DOING MORE IN TERMS OF ENCOURAGING AND PROPOGATING THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM, DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR SAID.

SPEAKING ON HIS VARIOUS INVESTMENT MISSIONS ABROAD, DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, SAID THEY HAD BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL.

THERE HAD BEEN A LOT OF INQUIRIES AND SOME JOINT VENTURE PROJECTS HAD ALREADY STARTED.

THE MISSIONS WERE SUCCESSFUL WHEN COMPARED TO SIMILAR UNDERTAKINGS BY NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES IN THE REGION WHO ALSO WANTED TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENTS.

EARLIER, DATUK SRI DR. MAHATHIR AND HIS WIFE DATIN SRI DR. ASMAH, ACCOMPANIED BY THE MALAYSIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO BRITAIN DATUK ABDULLAH ALI VISITED THE ROLLS ROYCE MOTOR FACTORY AT CREWE ABOUT 140 MILES NORTH OF LONDON. —BERNAMA 1240/MD