

MAHATHIR-TEMPLES
BM

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BY SYED YAHYA HUSSEIN

ALOR STAR, MAY 25 (BERNAMA) — DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY HIT OUT AT A GROUP OF MUSLIMS WHO HAD DESECRATED SEVERAL HINDU TEMPLES IN THE COUNTRY.

THEIR ACTIONS WERE NOT ONLY IN CONFLICT WITH ISLAMIC TEACHINGS BUT COULD ALSO SPARK RACIAL ENMITY.

OPENING THE KUBANG PASU UMNO DIVISION DELEGATES MEETING AT JENAN NEAR HERE, HE SAID THAT THIS GROUP HAD MADE USE OF MISINTERPRETATIONS OF ISLAMIC TEACHINGS FOR THE BENEFIT OF SEVERAL OF THE GROUP'S LEADERS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THIS GROUP BELIEVED THAT WHOEVER DESTROYED THE IDOLS IN THE TEMPLES WOULD ENTER PARADISE, EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD EARLIER COMMITTED ACTS THAT WERE AGAINST ISLAMIC TEACHINGS.

THIS BELIEF, HE SAID, HAD SPREAD TO VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AND HAD BROUGHT DIRE CONSEQUENCES UPON SEVERAL PEOPLE WHO HELD THIS BELIEF, RECENTLY. — BERNAMA MORE 1455/LK

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NO 48: (F)
MAHATHIR-TEMPLES 2 ALOR STAR 2'2'2'

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT AND KUBANG PASU UMNO DIVISION HEAD, SAID THAT THE GROUP'S INTENTION IN PROPAGATING SUCH FALSE TEACHINGS WAS TO CAUSE RACIAL STRIFE IN THE COUNTRY.

WHEN RACIAL TROUBLE DID BREAK OUT THE GROUP'S LEADERS WOULD BENEFIT POLITICALLY AND MOVE INTO POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR TOLD THE UMNO MEMBERS THAT APART FROM POLITICAL ACTIVITIES THEY HAD A RESPONSIBILITY IN SPREADING TRUE ISLAMIC TEACHINGS.

HE SAID: +WE IN UMNO WISH TO USE OUR POWER AND STRENGTH FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY AND THIS CAN BE DONE BECAUSE UMNO HAS NOT ONLY AUTHORITY BUT IS A STRONG AND STABLE PARTY WHICH HAS A CLOSE UNDERSTANDING WITH THE MCA AND MIC.

HE URGED MUSLIMS TO CARRY OUT MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES TO PROPAGATE ISLAM THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS AND NOT THROUGH FORCE. — BERNAMA MORE 1457/LK

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NO 49: (F)
MAHATHIR-TEMPLES 3 ALOR STAR 2'2'2'

SUCH EFFORTS HAD PROVED EFFECTIVE WHEN BETWEEN 400 AND 500 YEARS AGO THE MALAYS WHO THEN HAD NO RELIGION HAD EMBRACED ISLAM AS A RESULT OF PREACHINGS BY MISSIONARIES FROM THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND INDIA.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PORTUGUESE HAD FAILED TO CONVERT THE MALAYS IN MALACCA TO CHRISTIANITY BECAUSE THEY EMPLOYED FORCE, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT PRESENT-DAY ISLAMIC MISSIONARIES SHOULD TAKE A LESSON FROM THE WAY THE ARABS AND INDIANS AND THE PORTUGUESE HAD ATTEMPTED TO SPREAD THEIR RELIGIONS. — BERNAMA MORE

MAHATHIR-TEMPLES 4 ALOR STAR

FROM IPOH, YONG SEK FATT REPORTS THAT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES OF TEMPLES IN PERAK, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN REMOTE AREAS, WERE TODAY URGED TO DEVISE THEIR OWN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS TO PREVENT ACTS OF VANDALISM.

PERAK CHIEF POLICE OFFICER DATUK YUEN YUET LENG LISTED A FIVE-POINT PLAN FOR THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES TO FOLLOW TO PREVENT MISCHIEVOUS ACTS BY IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS:

. A PERIMETER FENCE SHOULD BE BUILT TO KEEP OUT UNWANTED ELEMENTS OR INTRUDERS;

. LIAISE WITH THE AUTHORITIES FOR COORDINATED RUKUNTETANGGA OR RELA PATROLS TO BE INCLUDED;

. INSTALL AN ALARM SYSTEM WHICH WOULD BE TRIGGERED IF INTRUDERS ENTERED THE TEMPLE GROUNDS;

. ALL GATES OR DOORS LEADING TO ALTARS IN THE TEMPLES SHOULD BE SECURED AT NIGHT; AND

. REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES OR PERSONS LURKING IN THE VICINITY OF THE TEMPLE.

DATUK YUEN REMINDED TEMPLE CARETAKERS OR THOSE STAYING IN TEMPLES NOT TO TAKE THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS IF VANDALS ENTERED THE COMPOUNDS. --BERNAMA MORE 1517/MD

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NO53

(F)

MAHATHIR-TEMPLES 5 ALOR STAR

DATUK YUEN HOPED THAT HINDUS WOULD AS FAR AS POSSIBLE AVOID SETTING UP TEMPLES IN REMOTE AREAS AS POLICING THEM WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT.

HE SAID THAT THE POLICE WERE DOING THEIR BEST BUT IT WAS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO LOOK AFTER THE MORE THAN 700 HINDU TEMPLES IN THE STATE.

DATUK YUEN, WHO HAD VISITED THE TWO TEMPLES IN SUNGKAI AND BIDOR WHERE IDOLS WERE DESTROYED BY VANDALS ON MONDAY, PROMISED THE +FULLEST POSSIBLE+ POLICE INVESTIGATIONS AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE. --BERNAMA 1520/MD

MAHATHIR-TEMPLES 6 ALOR STAR (REOPENS NO53)

IN MUAR, COMMUNICATION MINISTER TAN SRI V. MANICKAVASAGAM SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN FIRM ACTION AGAINST THOSE INVOLVED IN DESTROYING IDOLS IN HINDU TEMPLES.

SUCH A MATTER SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE GOVERNMENT TO HANDLE, HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE DELEGATES MEETING OF THE JOHORE MIC HERE.

TAN SRI MANICKAVASAGAM, WHO IS MIC PRESIDENT, URGED MEMBERS TO SOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE PARTY. --
BERNAMA 1833/ZCM

MAHATHIR - TEMPLES 7 ALOR STAR (REOPENS ITEM 17)

FOR STATE ASSEMBLYMAN FOR BULOH KASAP, DATUK G. PASAN, WAS RETURNED AS HEAD OF JOHORE MIC.

OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS ELECTED WERE DEPUTY HEAD, ENCIK V. ARUGUAM, SECRETARY, ENCIK K. BALAKRISHNAN AND TREASURER, ENCIK P. NARAIANSAMY. - BERNAMA 1905/AB