

NO20 (F)
MAHATHIR

KUALA TRENGGANU, NOV 14 (BERNAMA) — ^(P)DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED ON MUSLIMS TO GREET THE ADVENT OF THE 15TH CENTURY OF HIJRAH WITH RENEWED DETERMINATION TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER URGED THEM TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE, AND SAID THEY COULD SUCCEED IF THEY TRULY ADHERED TO ISLAMIC TEACHINGS.

HE WAS LAUNCHING CELEBRATIONS TO MARK THE ADVENT OF THE 15TH CENTURY OF HIJRAH ORGANISED BY UMNO YOUTH MALAYSIA AND THE TRENGGANU UMNO YOUTH AT DEWAN TUNKU AEDUL RAHMAN HERE.

UMNO YOUTH LEADER HAJI SUHAIMI DATUK HAJI KAMARUDDIN AND UMNO SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK HAJI MUSTAPHA JABAR WERE PRESENT.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ADVISED MUSLIMS TO INCREASE THEIR KNOWLEDGE IN ALL FIELDS THAT COULD BRING HAPPINESS TO THEM AND HELP THEM FACE THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE. —BERNAMA MORE 1320/MD

NO21 (F)
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HE TOLD MUSLIMS TO GUARD AGAINST DEVIANT RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS WHICH COULD LEAD TO CONFLICTS AMONG THEM.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THEY SHOULD REGARD THE ADVENT OF THE 15TH CENTURY OF HIJRAH AS A TIME TO REFLECT ON THE RISE AND FALL OF ISLAM.

GREATER AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF ISLAMIC HISTORY WOULD ENABLE MUSLIMS TO PLAN THEIR FUTURE COURSE MORE EFFECTIVELY.

HE SAID ISLAM ENCOURAGED MUSLIMS TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE IN THE VARIOUS FIELDS AS THIS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE SPREAD OF THE RELIGION.

WITH SUCH KNOWLEDGE, MUSLIMS WOULD HAVE THE STRENGTH TO DEFEND THEIR POSITION AND RELIGION.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE ACQUIRING OF SUCH KNOWLEDGE DID NOT MEAN THAT MUSLIMS WANTED TO HAMPER OTHERS. IT WAS SIMPLY TO EQUIP THEM FOR LIFE'S CHALLENGES.

—BERNAMA MORE HM 1345

NO33 (F)
MAHATHIR 3 KUALA TRENGGANU

HE REGRETTED THAT THERE WERE THOSE WHO EXPRESSED VIEWS AND PROPAGATED TEACHINGS THAT COULD HARM MUSLIMS OR MAKE THEM BACKWARD.

HE SAID THAT WHEN THE GOVERNMENT TRIED TO CHECK SUCH TEACHINGS, CERTAIN QUARTERS ACCUSED IT OF ATTEMPTING TO OBSTRUCT THE SPREAD OF ISLAM.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID A NEW AWARENESS HAD ARISEN FOLLOWING THE BATU PAHAT INCIDENT WHERE A DEVIANT RELIGIOUS GROUP HAD ATTACKED A POLICE STATION AND INJURED INNOCENT PEOPLE.

THE TRAGEDY SHOWED THAT DEVIANT TEACHINGS COULD SPREAD AND WAS DETRIMENTAL TO MUSLIMS THEMSELVES, HE ADDED.

HE REMINDED MUSLIMS OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SIMILAR GROUPS EXISTING IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AND WARNED THAT THE SPREAD OF DEVIANT TEACHINGS COULD LEAD TO WAR AMONG MUSLIMS.

— BERNAMA MORE 1520/SZ

NO37 (F)
MAHATHIR 4 KUALA TRENGGANU

HE SAID THEY MIGHT BE THOSE WHO CONSIDERED THIS AN IMPOSSIBILITY BUT WHAT WAS OCCURRING IN OTHER MUSLIM COUNTRIES SHOWED THAT IT COULD HAPPEN.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WANTED MUSLIMS TO THINK ABOUT WHETHER THEY TRULY ADHERED TO ISLAMIC TEACHINGS SO THAT THEY WOULD WORK, SEEK KNOWLEDGE, BE DISCIPLINED AND RESPECT THEIR LEADERS.

HE SAID ALL THESE WERE ESSENTIAL FOR MUSLIMS TO RETURN TO THE RIGHT PATH AND GAIN THE KIND OF GLORY THAT MUSLIMS USED TO ENJOY. MUSLIMS WOULD FACE A BLEAK FUTURE SO LONG AS THEY CONCERNED THEMSELVES WITH TRIVIALITIES AND DID NOT ACT ACCORDING TO ISLAMIC TEACHINGS, HE ADDED.

THEY MUST DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES WHETHER THEY WANT TO GO FORWARD OR BE BACKWARD AND CONTROLLED BY OTHERS.

TO WIN THE RESPECT OF OTHERS, MUSLIMS MUST SHOW BY EXAMPLE THAT ISLAM DID NOT HAMPER PROGRESS AND IN FACT BROUGHT HAPPINESS, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID. -- BERNAMA MORE 1533/SZ

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MAHATHIR 5 KUALA TRENGGANU

THE QUESTION NOW, HE ADDED, WAS WHETHER MUSLIMS WERE SHOWING SUCH AN EXAMPLE OR ALIENATING OTHERS WITH ACTIONS CONTRARY TO ISLAMIC TEACHINGS.

WITH THE WEALTH AND POLITICAL POWER THEY NOW HAVE, MUSLIMS HAD A GOOD OPPORTUNITY OF IMPROVING THE POSITION OF ISLAM.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS EARLIER ACCORDED A WARM WELCOME ON ARRIVAL AT THE TELAGA BATIN AIRPORT, 13 MILES FROM HERE. THE WELLWISHERS INCLUDED 200 UMNO YOUTH MEMBERS.

ABOUT 500 UMNO YOUTH MEMBERS FROM THE VARIOUS STATES WERE PRESENT AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY.

—BERNAMA 1557/AN