

MAHATHIR-ISLAM
BM

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ALOR STAR, JAN. 16 (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS URGED MUSLIMS TO MAKE THE 15TH CENTURY HIJRAH A CENTURY OF AWARENESS TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE TO PRESERVE THE FUTURE OF ISLAM.

HE SAID THAT EVERY MUSLIM WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE OF THE RELIGION NOT ONLY IN THIS COUNTRY BUT ALSO ELSEWHERE.

OPENING THE 15TH CENTURY HIJRAH CELEBRATIONS ORGANISED BY THE WANITA UMNO MOVEMENT AT THE STADIUM DATUK SYED OMAR HERE, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID MUSLIMS IN MALAYSIA WERE FORTUNATE AS THEY ENJOYED FREEDOM AND WELL BEING.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE WERE MUSLIMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHO WERE SUPPRESSED AND COULD NOT PRACTISE THEIR RELIGION FREELY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 15TH CENTURY HIJRAH CELEBRATIONS, MUSLIMS IN MALAYSIA SHOULD RESOLVE TO CHANGE THEIR POSITION THROUGH EDUCATION TO ENABLE THEM TO HELP THEIR LESS FORTUNATE FELLOW MUSLIMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

— BERNAMA MORE 1430/SZ

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THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT ONE WAY OF DOING THIS WAS THROUGH KNOWLEDGE BECAUSE MUSLIMS WERE LEFT BEHIND IN THIS ASPECT ALTHOUGH THEY WERE AMONG THE WEALTHIEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.

WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, MUSLIMS WOULD BE UNABLE TO DEFEND THEIR RELIGION AND THEIR RACE AND THEY WOULD BE DEPENDENT ON OTHER PEOPLE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CITED THE EXAMPLE OF THE MUSLIMS HAVING TO DEPEND ON OTHER PEOPLE, INCLUDING THEIR ENEMIES THE COMMUNISTS, FOR THEIR SUPPLY OF WEAPONS AND ARMS BECAUSE THEY THEMSELVES WERE NOT CAPABLE OF MANUFACTURING THE WEAPONS.

HE REGRETTED THAT THE WEAPONS SUPPLIED BY THE ENEMIES OF ISLAM WERE USED TO KILL FELLOW MUSLIMS AS WAS NOW THE CASE IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES.

HE SAID THE ISLAMIC WORLD WAS FACED WITH MANY CHALLENGES AND MANY MUSLIM COUNTRIES HAD FALLEN INTO THE HANDS OF THE COMMUNISTS AND THE HOLY CITY OF JERUSALEM HAD NOT YET BEEN LIBERATED. — BERNAMA MORE 1435/SZ

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ALL THESE EVENTS, HE SAID, SHOULD SERVE AS A LESSON TO MUSLIMS IN MALAYSIA AND THEY SHOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO KNOWLEDGE TO ENABLE THEMSELVES TO MAINTAIN THE WELL-BEING OF ISLAM NOT ONLY IN MALAYSIA BUT ALSO IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

HE SAID THE FATE OF THE MUSLIMS IN AFGHANISTAN, YEMEN, KAMPUCHEA AND SOUTHERN RUSSIA SHOULD BE IN THE MINDS OF THE MUSLIMS IN MALAYSIA SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT SUFFER THE SAME.

AMONG THE 2,000 PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED THE CELEBRATIONS WERE WANITA UMNO LEADER DATIN PADUKA AISHAH GHANI, KEDAH MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI SYED NAHAR SHAHABUDDIN AND UMNO SECRETARY GENERAL DATUK MUSTAPHA JABAR. — BERNAMA 1440/SZ