

KOTA BHARU, MARCH 14 (BERNAMA) — MALAYSIA DOES NOT WISH TO SEEK FAVOURS FROM BIG POWERS IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WAS BECAUSE MALAYSIA DID NOT WANT HERSELF TO BE +SWALLOWED+ BY THE COMMUNISTS OR BE +DICTATED TO+ BY THE CAPITALISTS.

HE WAS OPENING A COURSE FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS AT THE SEKOLAH MENENGAH ISMAIL PUTERA HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO WORK TOWARDS RAISING THE ECONOMIC STANDARD OF THE PEOPLE TO MAKE MALAYSIA A PROSPEROUS NATION.

+IN THIS WAY WE CAN COUNTER ANY OUTSIDE INFLUENCE,+ HE ADDED.

— BERNAMA MORE 1415/SZ

MAHATHIR 2 KOTA BHARU

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS CONFIDENT THAT MALAYSIA WOULD NOT SUFFER THE SAME FATE AS AFGHANISTAN AND SOUTH YEMEN.

+WE HAVE DEFEATED THE COMMUNISTS ONCE AND WE WILL CONTINUED TO DEFEAT THEM,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID IT WAS NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR A NATION THAT HAD AT ONE TIME HELD FIRM TO THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM TO BECOME A MARXIST COUNTRY IF IT CONTINUED TO REGRESS AND THE PEOPLE CONTINUED TO LIVE IN POVERTY.

— BERNAMA MORE 1458/SZ

MAHATHIR—COMMUNISTS 3 KOTA BHARU

AFGHANISTAN, HE SAID, WAS AT ONE TIME AN ISLAMIC COUNTRY THAT WAS VERY ORTHODOX WHILE TRADERS FROM YEMEN HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN SPREADING ISLAM TO MALAYA DURING THE RULE OF SULTAN MUZAFFAR SHAH.

HOWEVER, BECAUSE THE MUSLIMS OF AFGHANISTAN AND SOUTH YEMEN WERE NOT UNITED, THEY HAD BEEN SWALLOWED BY THE COMMUNISTS, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THERE MUST BE NATIONAL RESILIENCE AMONG THE PEOPLE SO THAT THEY WOULD HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO DEFEND THE NATION FROM ANY THREAT AND SUCH CAPABILITY MIGHT NOT BE CREATED IF THE PEOPLE WERE TO REMAIN POOR.

HE URGED COMMUNITY LEADERS TO INSTILL GOOD VALUES BASED ON ISLAMIC TEACHINGS AMONG THE MUSLIMS SO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WOULD NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS. — BERNAMA MORE MAHATHIR—COMMUNISTS 4 KOTA BHARU

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT WHAT WAS BEING PRACTICED BY PAS WAS VERY MUCH CONTRARY TO THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM.

HE SAID PAS DENOUNCED MUSLIMS WHO WERE NOT MEMBERS AS INFIDELS, DID NOT WANT TO MIX WITH NON-MEMBER MUSLIMS OR ATTEND FUNERAL PRAYERS FOR NON-MEMBER MUSLIMS AND URGING MUSLIMS TO TOTALLY REJECT MATERIAL WEALTH. — BERNAMA 1525/SZ