

MAHATHIR
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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 16 (BERNAMA) — THERE IS A NEED TO FORMULATE A NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY WITH RELIGION, TRADITIONS AND EXISTING NORMS AND VALUES FORMING ITS BASIS, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID DUE CONSIDERATION SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO ISLAMIC VALUES IN FORMULATING THE POLICY +WHICH MUST BE INFLUENCED BY OUR TRADITIONS AND OUR VALUES.+

OPENING A ONE-DAY UMNO YOUTH SEMINAR ON THE NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY AT A HOTEL HERE, HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE A PROPER AND EFFECTIVE POLICY COULD BE DRAWN UP LEADING TO THE EMERGENCE OF A YOUTH FORCE CAPABLE OF TAKING OVER FROM THE OLDER GENERATION.

HE WAS CERTAIN THAT THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED +IF WE HOLD STEADFASTLY TO THE VALUES AND TEACHINGS OF ISLAM.+

HOWEVER, HE REGRETTED THAT ISLAMIC TEACHINGS NOW HAD BEEN GIVEN VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS AND SOME PEOPLE HAD BEEN MAKING USE OF RELIGION FOR PERSONAL INTERESTS. — BERNAMA MORE 1535/SZ

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WARNED THAT IF YOUTH WERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO DEVIATED RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS, IT WOULD ONLY LEAD TO RETROGRESSION.

HE ALSO REMINDED MUSLIMS, ESPECIALLY YOUTH, NOT TO JUST EMPHASISE ON THE EXTERNAL APPEARANCE OF ISLAM — THEY SHOULD INSTEAD PRACTISE THE TRUE TEACHINGS OF THE RELIGION AND GIVE PRIORITY TO WHAT WAS REQUIRED BY IT SUCH AS PURSUING KNOWLEDGE AND EQUIPPING ONESELF TO DEFEND THE NATION.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CALLED ON YOUTH NOT TO BE EASILY TAKEN IN BY WESTERN INFLUENCES WITHOUT FIRST CONSIDERING WHETHER THEY WERE GOOD OR BAD.

FOR EYAMPLE, HE SAID, ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT DEMONSTRATIONS WERE NOW OUT-OF-DATE IN THE UNITED STATES WHEREAS IN THIS COUNTRY THEY WERE STILL A VOGUE.

+THIS IS MOST UNFORTUNATEZ,+ HE SAID. — BERNAMA MORE 1625/SZ

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT IN FORMULATING THE NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY, +WE MUST ALSO BE GUIDED BY HISTORY, WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND US AND WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OTHERS.+

CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS MINISTER DATUK ABDUL SAMAD IDRIS PRESENTED A PAPER ON MALAY NATIONALISM AND POLITICAL DILEMMA FROM THE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE AT THE SEMINAR.

HE TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE NATIONAL YOUTH CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL HAD EMPOWERED HIM TO APPOINT A 20-MEMBER COMMITTEE HEADED BY DATUK MOKHTAR HASHIM, DEPUTY HEAD OF UMNO YOUTH, TO DISCUSS THE FORMULATION OF THE YOUTH POLICY.

DATUK SAMAD HOPED THE POLICY COULD BE DRAWN UP BY NEXT YEAR.
— BERNAMA 1627/SZ