

NO18 (F)
MAHATHIR - ISLAM

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 24²¹ (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA TODAY EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO HELP STRENGTHEN AND MAKE EFFECTIVE THE DAKWAH ACTIVITIES IN THE WORLD.

PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) WHO MADE THE OFFER PLEDGED THAT THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE TASK.

+I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IN MALAYSIA, WE HAVE A LOT THAT CAN BE PUT IN THE SERVICE OF THE DAKWAH, + HE SAID.

HE WAS OPENING THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE 15TH CENTURY HIJRAH HERE ATTENDED BY ABOUT 400 DELEGATES REPRESENTING MISSIONARY ORGANISATIONS FROM 40 COUNTRIES.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HIT OUT AT MUSLIMS WHOSE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM WERE DIRECTED TOWARDS OTHER OBJECTIVES.

HE SAID FOR THESE PEOPLE WRONG INTERPRETATIONS WERE OF MINOR CONSIDERATION AS LONG AS THEY ACHIEVED THEIR REAL OBJECTIVES.

+THE RESULT WOULD BE TO POLLUTE THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM WITH EXTRANEOUS MATTERS OR EVEN TO RENDER MUSLIMS UNISLAMIC, + HE ADDED. --BERNAMA MORE 1253/AH

NO20 (F)
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE HISTORY OF ISLAM WAS REplete WITH ACCOUNTS OF HOW DEVIATIONIST SECTS WERE FORMED AND HOW ASSASSINATIONS BECAME A WEAPON FOR A FEW OF THESE SECTS.

THE ISLAMIC WORLD TODAY, HE ADDED, WAS AGAIN WITNESSING THE EMERGENCE OF SUCH SECTS.

+IN MALAYSIA ITSELF, WE HAVE SEEN A MURDEROUS ATTEMPT MADE ON INNOCENT BYSTANDERS AND PUBLIC SERVANTS BY A GROUP OF DEVIATIONISTS+, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IN MANY VILLAGES IN THE COUNTRY, MUSLIMS WERE DIVIDED AGAINST EACH OTHER TO THE EXTENT THAT NOT ONLY THEY WOULD NOT PRAY IN THE SAME MOSQUE BUT WOULD ALSO NOT RECOGNISE MARRIAGES SOLEMNISED BY PEOPLE THEY DISLIKE OR SAY FUNERAL PRAYERS OVER THE BODIES OF BROTHER MUSLIMS WHOM THEY HAD ARBITRARILY CONDEMNED AS NON-MUSLIMS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID RELIGION WAS NOT MERE IDEOLOGY BUT IT WAS A DEEP COMMITMENT THAT CANNOT BE CHANGED EASILY.

HE SAID ONCE AN INTERPRETATION OF THE RELIGIOUS BELIEF WAS ACCEPTED, IT WAS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE, ESPECIALLY AMONG MUSLIMS TO CORRECT OR CHANGE THE INTERPRETATION. --
BERNAMA MORE 1317/MD

NO22 (F)
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR NOTED THAT AMONG MUSLIMS, THE FOLLOWERS OF ONE SECT WOULD NOT READILY ACCEPT THE PRACTICES OF OTHER SECTS, EVEN THOUGH THEY MIGHT ACCEPT THE OTHER SECT AS ISLAMIC.

+OF COURSE WHEN THEY REGARD A SECT AS UNISLAMIC THEY WILL NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE INFLUENCED+, HE SAID.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, THE FOLLOWERS OF THE SECT CONDEMNED AS UNISLAMIC MAY CONSIDER THE CONDEMNATION AS WRONG AND THAT THEIR OWN INTERPRETATION OF ISLAM IS THE RIGHT INTERPRETATION+.

HE SAID: +CONSEQUENTLY, THEY WOULD ADHERE TO THEIR WRONG INTERPRETATION COME WHAT MAY. TO THESE PEOPLE, THEY ARE THE ONES WITH THE RIGHT INTERPRETATION AND THEY WOULD THEREFORE CLING TO IT WITH TENACITY+.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT ONCE A WRONG INTERPRETATION WAS ACCEPTED, IT WAS DIFFICULT OR ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO CORRECT IT.

THIS WAS SO BECAUSE RELIGION WAS LARGELY A MATTER OF FAITH, MOST OF WHICH WAS UNQUESTIONING, HE ADDED.
--BERNAMA MORE 1327/MD

NO23 (F)
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE INJUNCTIONS OF THE QURAN WOULD BE FULFILLED IF THE CORRECT AND ACCEPTED TEACHINGS OF ISLAM WERE PROPAGATED.

HOWEVER, TO SPREAD THE WRONG INTERPRETATION OF ISLAM WOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS DAKWAH.

+IT IS INDEED THE ANTI-THESIS OF DAKWAH AND A MUSLIM COMMUNITY WOULD BE FAILING IN ITS DUTY IF IT WAS TO STAND BY WHILE SOMEONE IS BLATANTLY UNDERMINING THE FAITH OF THE MUSLIMS+, HE STRESSED.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO HIT OUT AT THE WESTERN CONCEPTS OF THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS WHICH, HE SAID, HAD RESULTED IN THE DESTRUCTION OF MORAL VALUES.

THIS HAD BEEN MANIFESTED FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE PHENOMENON OF STREAKERS WHO RUN NAKED IN PUBLIC AS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE FREEDOM OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

+SUCH IS THE VALUE PLACED ON INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS THAT THE PUBLIC DO NOT FEEL SCANDALISED BY SUCH BEHAVIOUR AND INSTEAD THE NEWSPAPERS REPORT THIS EVENT WITH GLEE+, HE ADDED. --BERNAMA MORE 1334/MD

MAHATHIR-ISLAM 5 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID OTHER DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS WERE THE +WEARING OF ATROCIOUS CLOTHINGS, PAINTING OF FACES, DRUG TAKING AND ORGIES+.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR LAMENTED THAT THE COMMUNITY HAD FAILED TO PREVENT WHAT WAS ONCE REGARDED EVEN BY WESTERN CULTURES AS DEPRAVITY.

+EVERYONE IT SEEMS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DO HIS OWN THINGG+, HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT ISLAM DID NOT SUBSCRIBE TO SUCH INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AS THERE WERE CODES OF BEHAVIOUR WHICH MUST BE ADHERED TO IN THE ISLAMIC COMMUNITY.

HE SAID SIMILARLY IN THE TEACHING OR PROPAGATION OF ISLAM, THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY HAD A DUTY TO ENSURE THAT INDIVIDUALISTIC AND PERVERTED TEACHINGS DAMAGING TO ISLAM WERE NOT ALLOWED TO GO UNCHECKED. --BERNAMA 1350/MD