

NO18: (F)
MAHATHIR-ISLAM
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 27 (BERNAMA) (P) - ISLAMIC COUNTRIES, IN THEIR DESIRE TO PRACTISE A FULLY ISLAMIC ECONOMIC SYSTEM, MUST NOT BE TOO HASTY IN THEIR ACTIONS SO AS TO WEAKEN THEIR OWN POSITION, (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IN PURSUING THEIR OBJECTIVE, ISLAMIC COUNTRIES WOULD FIND THAT IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ISOLATE THEMSELVES FROM A WORLD WHOSE ECONOMY WAS DOMINATED BY THE WEST.

OPENING A COURSE ORGANISED BY THE UMNO RELIGIOUS BUREAU AT UMNO HOUSE HERE, HE STRESSED THAT BEFORE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES COULD SWITCH TO ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES PERMITTED BY ISLAM, THEY MUST FIRST BE FULLY KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THESE ACTIVITIES.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS THE UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID THAT IF ISLAMIC COUNTRIES WERE TO BLINDLY PLUNGE INTO FIELDS IN WHICH THEY LACKED KNOWLEDGE, THEY WOULD BE PROBABLY BE CHEATED, AS THEY HAD BEEN CHEATED FOR 100 YEARS BY BEING MADE TO SELL OIL CHEAPLY. -- BERNAMA MORE 1217/A1

NO20: (F)
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 2 KUALA LUMPUR

IT WAS BECAUSE OF LACK OF KNOWLEDGE THAT ISLAMIC COUNTRIES HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO TAP THE OIL THAT THEIR LAND WAS ENDOWED WITH, AND TO REFINED AND MARKET THE COMMODITY.

+WE CAN BLAME THOSE WHO CHEATED US BUT WE CANNOT ABSOLVE OURSELVES FROM OUR OWN ACTION IN NOT HEEDING THE ISLAMIC TEACHING THAT WE SHOULD PURSUE KNOWLEDGE, + HE SAID.

+IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS LACK OF KNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO HAVE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY WHICH CAN SERVE OUR OWN INTEREST.

+WE HAVE ONLY OURSELVES TO BLAME, ESPECIALLY THOSE AMONG US WHO PURPOSELY HINDER THE PURSUIT OF THE KNOWLEDGE.+

THE PRIME MINISTER REGRETTED THAT ALTHOUGH MUSLIMS NOW NUMBERED SOME 900 MILLION IN THE WORLD, THEY CONTINUED TO REMAIN A WEAK MINORITY GROUP.

HE SAID THAT MUSLIMS HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO COMPETE, WHAT MORE TO BE ON PAR WITH, THE NON-MUSLIMS IN SUCH FIELDS AS THE ECONOMY, EDUCATION, MILITARY AND POLITICS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1304/A1

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NO21 (F)
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THAT THE WESTERN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS WERE FIRMLY ENTRENCHED IN THE WORLD AND THE ISLAMIC COMMUNITY AS A MINORITY GROUP COULD NOT FORCE THE WORLD TO ACCEPT ITS OWN SYSTEMS.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT TO SAFEGUARD ISLAMIC INTEREST, ISLAM PERMITTED ITS FOLLOWERS TO TAKE ACTIONS WHICH WERE NOT CONTRARY TO ITS TEACHINGS ALTHOUGH THESE ACTIONS MIGHT NOT ORIGINATE FROM THE ISLAMIC SYSTEM ITSELF.

+IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, WE SHOULD HAVE GREATER FLEXIBILITY,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR URGED MUSLIMS TO UNDERSTAND THE ISLAMIC BACKGROUND IN THE COUNTRY AND ALSO THE ISLAMIC BACKGROUND IN THIS MODERN WORLD.

THEY MUST FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS FOR THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY OF ISLAM AND FELLOW MUSLIMS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1310/S

NO22 (F)
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UMNO RELIGIOUS BUREAU, DATUK AMAR HAJI WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD, WHO IS THE MENTRI BESAR OF TRENGGANU, SAID THE COURSE WAS TO EQUIP DIVISIONAL LEADERS WITH KNOWLEDGE TO FACE CURRENT AND FUTURE CHALLENGES.

HE SAID SIMILAR COURSES WOULD BE CONDUCTED BY THE WANITA MOVEMENT AND UMNO YOUTH.

A TOTAL OF 250 REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL 114 UMNO DIVISIONS ARE ATTENDING THE TWO-DAY COURSE. -- BERNAMA 1315/SZ