

NO13:
MAHATHIR-ISLAM
BM

81 (P)
BANGI, MARCH 10 (BERNAMA - ACTING PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) TODAY SUGGESTED THE SETTING UP OF A CONSULTATIVE BODY TO IDENTIFY ISLAMIC VALUES WHICH SHOULD FORM THE BASIS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

HE SAID THE BODY SHOULD COMPRISE MUSLIM GOVERNMENT OFFICERS, SCHOLARS AND PROFESSIONALS WHO COULD GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE MATTER.

THEY SHOULD ALSO STUDY THE EXISTING FORMS OF TECHNOLOGY IMPORTED FROM THE WEST, IN ORDER TO ADAPT THEM TO LOCAL CONDITIONS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MADE THE SUGGESTION WHEN HE OPENED A NATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE CONCEPT OF DEVELOPMENT IN ISLAM AT THE DEWAN TUN ABDUL RAZAK, UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN HERE.

HE WANTED MEMBERS OF THE CONSULTATIVE BODY TO LIST OUT THE HARD AND SOFT TECHNOLOGY NEEDED BY THE COUNTRY TO ENSURE THAT DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM. ---BERNAMA MORE 1123/MK

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THE SYSTEM OF MONITORING ISLAMIC SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROJECT SHOULD BE GIVEN ATTENTION TO TEST THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADAPTING DEVELOPMENT STRUCTURE BASED ON ISLAMIC TENETS.

ASSESSMENTS OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SHOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION NOT ONLY THE BENEFITS OF SUCH DEVELOPMENT BUT ALSO THE VALUES OF ISLAM.

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN ISLAM AND DEVELOPMENT HAD ARISEN BECAUSE ASSESSMENTS OF PROJECTS HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT IN ISOLATION OF EACH OTHER.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNERS TEND TO ASSESS A PROJECT IN TERMS OF EFFICIENCY AND MATERIAL BENEFITS WHILE RELIGIOUS LEADERS BASED THEIR ASSESSMENT ON ISLAMIC VALUES AND PRACTICE.

AS A RESULT, SOME PROJECTS WERE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO CERTAIN QUARTERS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEM, ISLAMIC VALUES SHOULD BE INCORPORATED IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING TO ENSURE THAT PROJECTS WERE ACCEPTED FULLY BY THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY. --BERNAMA MORE 1130/MK

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THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH ISLAM ENCOURAGED ITS FOLLOWERS TO BE MODERATE IN THEIR LIVING, THIS MODERATION SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A GUIDING PRINCIPLE IN EFFORTS TO SUCCEED IN EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE AND BUSINESS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, MUSLIMS WERE REQUIRED TO STRIVE HARD FOR PROGRESS SO LONG AS THEIR ACTIONS WERE IN LINE WITH THE TEACHINGS OF THE RELIGION.

HE DESCRIBED THE CONTENTION BY CERTAIN GROUPS THAT DEVELOPMENT CARRIED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ONLY ERODE THE VALUES OF ISLAM AS +A DANGEROUS TRAP.+

THIS WOULD CAUSE SOME MUSLIMS TO REFRAIN FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID RELIGIOUS VALUES DID NOT SERVE AS A NEGATING FACTOR TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT AND WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS THE ATTITUDE OF THE COMMUNITY. --BERNAMA MORE 1134/MK
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THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY WOULD BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE GREATER PROGRESS FROM DEVELOPMENT IF THEY SHOWED GREATER DETERMINATION AND SELF DISCIPLINE.

HE SAID THE ELEMENTS OF ISLAM WERE ALREADY PRESENT IN THE EXISTING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND WHAT WAS REQUIRED WAS MERELY TO INCREASE SUCH VALUES.

IN THIS CONTEXT, RELIGIOUS LEADERS SHOULD BE PREPARED NOT ONLY TO CRITICISE THE SHORTCOMINGS IN THE EXISTING SYSTEM BUT ALSO TO SUGGEST WORKABLE ALTERNATIVES.

HE STRESSED THAT SINCE RELIGION WAS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF MALAYSIAN SOCIETY, THE VIEWS OF RELIGIOUS EXPERTS MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO DETERMINE MATTERS RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT. --
BERNAMA MORE 1139/MK

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IN THIS RESPECT, CONSULTANTS ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS COULD BE ENGAGED TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ADVICE TO THE GOVERNMENT ON DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

THE THREE-DAY SEMINAR, HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 15TH CENTURY HIJRAH, IS BEING ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE INCLUDING SECRETARIES GENERAL OF MINISTRIES, DIRECTORS GENERAL OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS, HEADS OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENTS, MUETIS AND PROFESSIONALS. --BERNAMA 1140/MK