

MAHATHIR - MUSLIM

KUALA LUMPUR, JAN. 15 ⁸² (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TOLD MUSLIMS TODAY TO BE INDUSTRIOUS AND NOT TO WORK MERELY FOR THE SAKE OF WAGES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WAS IN LINE WITH THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM AS SUCH ATTITUDE WOULD ENABLE THEM TO STAND ON THEIR OWN FEET AND PROGRESS.

THEY SHOULD ALSO WORK FOR THE GOOD OF THE RELIGION AND ITS FOLLOWERS, HE ADDED WHEN LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE 160 MILLION TABUNG HAJI BUILDING HERE.

HE DESCRIBED THE BUILDING AS A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR MUSLIMS TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF ISLAM. -- BERNAMA 1329/MK

MAHATHIR-MUSLIM 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER REGRETTED THAT MANY MUSLIMS WERE CONCERNED ONLY WITH THEIR OWN SALVATION WITHOUT THINKING OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THEIR FELLOW MUSLIMS.

THIS, HE SAID, WAS NOT IN LINE WITH THE TEACHING OF ISLAM. DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE MUSLIMS OF TODAY WERE FORTUNATE AS THEY NEED ONLY TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO UPHOLD THE RELIGION.

THIS WAS A MINOR RESPONSIBILITY COMPARED TO THAT SHOULDERED BY MUSLIMS DURING THE TIME OF THE PROPHET WHEN SOME EVEN HAD TO GIVE UP THEIR LIVES TO DEFEND THE RELIGION.

AS SUCH THE MUSLIMS SHOULD ASK THEMSELVES WHETHER THEY WERE SATISFIED WITH THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS OR WHETHER THEY COULD DO MORE FOR THE RELIGION AND ITS FOLLOWERS.

→ BERNAMA MORE 1415/SZ

NO37 (F)

MAHATHIR-MUSLIMS 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THERE WERE MANY NEW AND BEAUTIFUL MOSQUES IN THE COUNTRY BUT THE MUSLIMS WHO ENJOYED THIS FACILITY COULD NOT AFFORD OR DID NOT WANT TO BUILD THEM AS THEY WERE NOT KEEN TO BE INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

HE SAID MUSLIM YOUTHS PREFERRED INSTEAD TO WORK IN OFFICES AND FACTORIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER FEARED THAT IF THIS ATTITUDE PERSISTED THE MUSLIMS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE DEPENDENT ON THE SKILLS OF OTHERS AND THIS WOULD MAKE THEM VULNERABLE TO OUTSIDE PRESSURE.

HE URGED MUSLIMS TO TAKE COGNISANCE OF THEIR SHORTCOMINGS AND RESOLVE TO OVERCOME THEM.

IN THIS RESPECT, THE PILGRIMS MANAGEMENT AND FUND BOARD COULD PLAY ITS ROLE IN SURMOUNTING SUCH PROBLEMS.

— BERNAMA MORE 1417/SZ

NO38 (F)

MAHATHIR-MUSLIMS 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE ABILITY OF THE BOARD TO PUT UP THE BUILDING REFLECTED THE STRONG ECONOMIC POSITION OF THE MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY AND ALSO PROVED THAT ISLAM WAS NOT AN OBSTACLE TO THEIR ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT.

IT ALSO SERVED AS AN EYE-OPENER TO THOSE WHO HAD DOUBTED THE SUGGESTION OF ROYAL PROFESSOR UNGKU AZIZ FOR THE MARSHALLING OF SAVINGS OF INTENDING PILGRIMS INTO ONE FUND.

AN IMPORTANT LESSON WAS THAT DOUBTS ON ANY GOOD SCHEME SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH ITS IMPLEMENTATION. IT ALSO SHOWED THAT NO SCHEME COULD SUCCEED WITHOUT DEDICATION AND HARD WORK.

HE PRAISED THE TABUNG HAJI FOR ITS GOOD WORK IN HELPING MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY TO PERFORM THE HAJ.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR URGED INTENDING PILGRIMS TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE BOARD TO ENABLE IT TO FUNCTION WELL.

AMONG THOSE PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY WERE MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DATUK MOHAMAD NASIR AND TABUNG HAJI CHAIRMAN DATUK HAJI MOHAMAD SHAMSUDDIN YAACOB.

— BERNAMA 1420/SZ