

NO11 (F)  
MAHATHIR-ISLAM  
BM

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82 (P)  
KUALA LUMPUR, FEB. 19 (BERNAMA) DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WARNED TODAY THAT THE SLANDEROUS STATEMENTS LEVELLED BY AN OPPOSITION PARTY AGAINST UMNO THAT IT DID NOT CHAMPION ISLAM AND ITS FOLLOWERS IN THE COUNTRY HAD REACHED A DANGEROUS STAGE.

WITHOUT MENTIONING THE PARTY BY NAME, THE PRIME MINISTER HOWEVER URGED UMNO MEMBERS NOT TO BE RULED BY EMOTION IN COUNTERING THESE STATEMENTS BECAUSE IT MIGHT RESULT IN A GREATER SPLIT AMONG THE MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY.

OPENING A COURSE FOR UMNO INFORMATION OFFICERS AT THE PARTY'S HEADQUARTERS HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO P PRESIDENT, SAID IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION, UMNO MEMBERS MUST STRIVE TO COUNTER SUCH UTTERANCES AND ACTIVITIES.

HE SAID THEY SHOULD TRY TO BRING THESE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN SUCH ACTIVITIES BACK TO THE RIGHT PATH AND BE GOOD MUSLIMS.

+AS THE BIGGEST ISLAMIC PARTY IN THE COUNTRY, WE MUST DO THIS BECAUSE IF WE LISTEN TO THEIR UTTERANCES AND SLANDERS, IT IS EVIDENT THAT THEY HAVE STRAYED FAR FROM THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM,+ HE STRESSED.--BERNAMA MORE 1210/HM

NO15 (F)  
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HOWEVER STRESSED THAT IT WAS NOT UMNO'S INTENTION TO CASTIGATE SUCH PEOPLE BUT MERELY TO ENLIGHTEN THEM TO ENABLE THEM TO GET BACK TO THE PROPER PATH.

+IT IS ALL RIGHT IF THEY RETURN TO THE RIGHT PATH AND NOT GOING IN UMNO'S STRUGGLE, AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT NEGLECT THEIR RELIGION IN THEIR EFFORTS TO GET ELECTED,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT AS MUSLIMS AND AS THE LARGEST ISLAMIC PARTY, UMNO SHOULD TAKE THIS DUTY SERIOUSLY AND KNOW THE WAYS TO EXPLAIN THE CORRECT POSITION NOT ONLY TO THOSE WHO WERE CONFUSED BY THE SLANDERS OF THE OPPOSITION PARTY BUT ALSO TO GET THESE PROPAGANDISTS BACK TO THE RIGHT PATH.

HE SAID THIS MATTER WAS GROWING IN INTENSITY AND UMNO MEMBERS HAD A DUTY TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION.

HOWEVER HOPED THAT UMNO MEMBERS WOULD NOT BE EMOTIONAL IN THEIR RESPONSE AS THIS COULD LEAD THEM TO INDULGE IN WHAT THESE PEOPLE THEMSELVES WERE DOING.--BERNAMA MORE 1226/HM

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EDS: PSE READ IN LAST PARA.... HE HOWEVER HOPED THAT ... (INSERTING (HE)

NO16 (F)  
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT UMNO'S AIM AND STRUGGLE WAS TO ACHIEVE TRUTH IN LINE WITH ITS POSITION AS THE LARGEST AND FOREMOST ISLAMIC PARTY IN THE COUNTRY.

+HOWEVER, IN THIS REGARD, THERE ARE SOME WHO ASK THAT IF UMNO IS AN ISLAMIC PARTY, WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT NOT RUN ALONG ISLAMIC LINES.?

+THESE PEOPLE ALSO CLAIM THAT THERE IS NO ISLAMIC GOVERNMENT OR ISLAMIC COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. THIS WEAKENS THE MUSLIMS.

+THEIR AIM OF SAYING THAT MUSLIMS WERE NOT MUSLIM AND THAT THE ISLAMIC GOVERNMENT WAS NOT ISLAMIC IS TO WEAKEN THE RESOLVE OF THE MUSLIMS IN THEIR STRUGGLES,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE WHO CLAIMED THAT INTER-  
PRETATION OF ISLAM SHOULD BE MADE ACCORDING TO AN BASED ON THEIR  
OPINIONS +AS THOUGH THEY ALONE ARE PERFECT, WHILE EVERY ONE KNOWS  
THAT MAN IS NOT FREE FROM ERRORS.+

HE SAID UMNO DID NOT DO SO BECAUSE AS THE AN ISLAMIC PARTY,  
ITS AIM WAS TO FIND WAYS TO CORRECT THE MUSLIMS.--BERNAMA MORE 1247X  
HM

NO18 (F)  
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REGRETTED THAT THOUGH ISLAM ADVOCATED  
UNITY AND BROTHERHOOD AMONG ITS FOLLOWERS, THERE WERE THOSE WHO  
CALLED FOR CONFRONTATION AS THE WAY TO DETERMINE THE TRUTH.

THIS CALL FOR CONFRONTATION WAS TO BETRAY THE MUSLIMS AS SUCH  
CONFRONTATION WOULD WEAKEN ALL MUSLIMS, HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT UMNO'S DUTY, APART FROM DEVELOPING THE  
COUNTRY, WAS TO FIND WAYS TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM.

+ALTHOUGH THEY SPEAK SUCH SLANDERS AND SAY ALL SORTS OF THINGS,  
WE DO NOT RELIATE BECAUSE OUR AIM IS TO FIND PEACE.+

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT BASED ON THIS REALISATION, HE  
HAD STATED NOT LONG AGO UMNO'S WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THOSE WHO HAD  
+STRAYED+.

+WE ARE WILLING TO DO THIS NOT BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT THEY  
ARE CORRECT BUT BECAUSE SEEKING UNITY IS THE PRIMARY TASK OF  
US MUSLIMS.

+HOWEVER, THE INVITATION WAS REJECTED OUTHRIGHT,+ HE SAID.  
--BERNAMA 1359/HM

NO19 (F)  
MAHATHIR - ISLAM 5 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT ACCORDING TO THE QURAN, IF  
THERE WAS A WAR BETWEEN TWO MUSLIM FACTIONS, IT WAS THE DUTY OF  
OTHER MUSLIMS TO FIND A WAY TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE.

+HOWEVER, IF ANY PARTY TO THE CONFLICT DOES NOT ACCEPT THE  
SOLUTION, THEN WE SHOULD JOIN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THAT PARTY.

+HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT REACHED THIS STAGE; ON THE OTHER HAND  
WE ARE STRIVING TO BRING THEM BACK TO THE RIGHT PATH AND THIS IS OUR  
TASK AS WE HAVE BEEN THE TARGETS OF THEIR UTTERANCES AND SALNDERS,+  
HE SAID.

AN ABOUT 300 UMNO INFORMATION OFFICERS FROM ALL THE 114  
DIVISIONS IN THE COUNTRY ARE ATTENDING THE THREE-DAY COURSE.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE OPENING WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UMNO  
INFORMATION BUREAU, DATUK SANUSI JUNID, WHO IS ALSO THE MINISTER  
OF NATIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND MEMBERS OF THE UMNO SUPREME  
COUNCIL. --BERNAMA 1310/AH

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