

N154:  
MAHATHIR-DINNER  
BM

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KOTA BHARU, FEB. 22 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT THE MODERATION SHOWN BY THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS ADMINISTRATION HAD MADE IT A TRUE ISLAMIC GOVERNMENT BECAUSE IT HAD BROUGHT PEACE AND HAPPINESS TO THE PEOPLE.

STATING THAT ISLAM EMPHASISED PEACE AND WELL-BEING, HE GAVE THE ASSURANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO HOLD FIRM TO THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM IN ITS ADMINISTRATION AT ALL TIMES.

HE REGRETTED HOWEVER, THAT THERE WERE SOME QUARTERS FOR WHOM THE RELIGION ONLY MEANT +CHOPPING OFF OF HEADS AND HANDS+ AND FOR WHOM THERE WOULD BE NO ISLAM SO LONG AS SUCH THINGS WERE NOT IMPLEMENTED.

+WE KNOW THAT ISLAM IS MORE THAN THAT. ISLAM, IN FACT, STRESS S WELL-BEING AND HAPPINESS OF THE PEOPLE,+ HE SAID WHEN SPEAKING AT A STATE DINNER AT THE ISTANA BALAI BESAR HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR THEN URGED MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY NOT TO ABUSE AND MISINTERPRETE THE RELIGION MERELY TO EMULATE OTHERS.

-- BERNAMA MORE 2203/1B

N155:  
MAHATHIR-DINNER 2 KOTA BHARU

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO REGRETTED THAT POLITICS WHICH DISREGARDED THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM HAD RE-DEVELOPED IN KELANTAN RESULTING IN A SPLIT AMONG MUSLIMS TO THE EXTENT THAT MORE EFFORTS WERE BEING FOCUSED ON PARTY POLITICS THAN ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE MUSLIMS.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND ITS SUPPORTERS WOULD NOT BE INFLUENCED BY EMOTION IN FACING THIS PROBLEM.

ON DEVELOPMENT, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE STATE HAD ACHIEVED GOOD PROGRESS AND POSSESSED ALL THE IMPORTANT FACILITIES.

HE ADDED THAT IN ADDITION, A PORT WOULD BE BUILT, THE AIRPORT EXPANDED AND THE EAST-WEST HIGHWAY OPENED SOON TO FACILITATE TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION IN THE STATE.

THE EAST-WEST HIGHWAY, HE SAID, WOULD BRING GREATER DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS CREATE MORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PEOPLE IN THE STATE.

HE PRAISED THE STATE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS EFFICIENCY AND DEDICATION IN DEVELOPING THE STATE. -- BERNAMA 2207/1B