

NO30 (F)
MAHATHIR-ISLAM
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 11 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING EFFORTS TO BUILD A NATION IN WHICH ITS CITIZENS CARRY ON THEIR DAILY LIFE GUIDED BY THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE BELIEVED IT WAS NOT WRONG TO BRING ISLAMIC TEACHINGS TO THE DAILY LIFE OF ALL CITIZENS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR RELIGIONS, FOR SUCH TEACHINGS WERE ALL FOR THE GOOD IN THIS AND THE NEXT WORLD.

+THE QURAN TEACHES GOOD AND I THINK ALL NON-MUSLIMS ALSO BELIEVE IN DOING GOOD,+ HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE MEETING OF STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS OF THE QURAN READING CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE REALISED THAT QURANIC TEACHINGS COULD NOT BE ASSIMILATED INTO DAILY LIFE OVERNIGHT.

HOWEVER, HE BELIEVED THAT THE MORE IMPORTANT ASPECTS SHOULD BE ABSORBED BY ALL, REGARDLESS OF RELIGION. — BERNAMA MORE 1322/SZ

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS +EXPERIMENTING+ A NEW SPIRIT AMONG THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE MUSLIMS, SO THAT THEY WOULD BECOME AN EXAMPLE TO THE WORLD OF A BREED OF CITIZENS WHO WERE COURAGEOUS, EFFICIENT AND CLEAN IN ALL ASPECTS, STRONG AND PROSPEROUS AND NOT SUBSERVIENT TO ANYBODY.

IN LINE WITH THIS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD CHOSEN +DISIPLIN DAN KESUNGGUHAN BEKERJA DALAM ISLAM+ (DISCIPLINE AND DEDICATION TOWARDS WORK IN ISLAM) AS THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S QURAN READING COMPETITION.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HOPED THAT THE MUSLIMS IN PARTICULAR WOULD HAVE THE SPIRIT AND DEDICATION TOWARDS WORK AS PREACHED BY THE QURAN SO THAT WITH THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND DILIGENCE THEY WOULD ACHIEVE SUCCESS.

+I DO NOT THINK THAT ISLAM ONLY PREACHES ITS FOLLOWERS TO DO THE IBADAT (PRAY) AND READ THE QURAN -- IT ALSO PREACHES CHARITY UNTO OTHERS TO BRING PROSPERITY TO THE PEOPLE AND THE NATION,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA MORE 1325/SZ

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR URGED MUSLIMS NOT TO BLINDLY FOLLOW THE WEST WHERE THE PEOPLE WERE MORE INTERESTED IN SELF-GAIN, STAGING STRIKES TO FIGHT FOR HIGHER PAY WITHOUT THINKING OF THE WELFARE OF OTHERS.

HE SAID THIS KIND OF SELFISHNESS HAD NO PLACE IN ISLAM; FOR THE QURAN PLACED GREAT EMPHASIS ON SELF-DISCIPLINE TO WORK TOWARDS THE WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE AND THE NATION.

HE SAID THAT DISCIPLINE IN TERMS OF CONTROLLING ONE'S DESIRES MUST BE PRACTISED BECAUSE WITHOUT IT, THE NATION WOULD NOT BE STABLE AND THE PEOPLE IN CHAOS.

+WE HAVE A NATION, GOVERNMENT AND POWER AND THESE MUST BE DEFENDED BY OUR WORKING HARD SO THAT OUR SOCIETY WOULD BECOME STRONG, UNITED AND DISIPLINED,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA MORE 1340/S

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EARLIER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMPETITION CENTRAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE, TAN SRI SYED NASIR ISMAIL, STRESSED THE NEED FOR CHANGES IN THE FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION WHICH AS IT ENTERED ITS 25TH YEAR FOR THE NATIONAL LEVEL AND ITS 24TH YEAR AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

HE SAID THE INFLUENCE OF ISLAMIC ACTIVITIES HAD EXTENDED TO FOREIGN NON-ISLAMIC COUNTRIES UNTIL MALAYSIA HAD BEEN PRAISED BY THE ARAB COUNTRIES AS A CENTRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE QURAN AND THE CHAMPION OF THE READING OF THE HOLY VERSES.

ABOUT 40 COUNTRIES ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN THE FIVE-DAY INTERNATIONAL LEVEL COMPETITION FROM JULY 8. THE NATIONAL LEVEL COMPETITION WILL BE HELD IN JUNE, DEPENDING ON THE DECISIONS OF THE STATE GOVERNMENTS. -- BERNAMA 1433/A1