

MAHATHIR - ISLAM
BM

EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AT 2200 HRS . TODAY (MARCH 12)

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 12⁸² (BERNAMA) ^(P) DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT DECLARED THAT EVERY MUSLIM WHO WANTED TO PROPAGATE ISLAM SHOULD DO SO WITH THE DESIRE TO RE-ESTABLISH ITS STRENGTH AND EMINENCE.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THEIR MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT SERVE THE POLEMICS WHICH COULD WEAKEN OR CAUSE DISUNITY AMONG MUSLIMS.

+WE MUST BE AWARE OF THE PRESENCE OF POWERS WHOSE DESIRES ARE TO DESTROY ISLAM BECAUSE IT IS OPPOSED TO THEIR IDEOLOGIES,+ HE WARNED WHEN SPEAKING AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE ISLAMIC ESSAY COMPETITION HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 15TH CENTURY O HIJRAH CELEBRATIONS AT THE DEWAN BAHASA DAN PUSTAKA HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID: +IF WE ARE WEAK, IT WILL CERTAINLY BE EASY FOR THEM TO PUT US IN THEIR TRAP AND ONCE WE HAVE ENTERED THE TRAP, ISLAM WILL BE DESTROYED BY THEM.+

HE ADDED THAT ALLAH TAUGHT MUSLIMS TO FOLLOW HIS PATH AND THIS CALLED FOR MEANINGFUL EFFORTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CERTAIN GUIDELINES, SINCERITY AND GOOD INTENTIONS.—BERNAMA MORE 2129/AH

N168

MAHATHIR - ISLAM 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

IF A PERSON PREACHES THE PATH TO GOODNESS BUT HIS DEEDS ARE OPEN TO QUESTION, THIS WOULD NOT LEAD MUSLIMS ANYWHERE, HE ADDED.

SO TOO, IS THE CASE OF CERTAIN PARTIES WHICH SUGGEST THE EMINENCE OF ISLAM BUT THEIR TACTICS TO INFLUENCE THE PEOPLE ARE SO OPPOSED TO THE TRUE SPIRIT OF THE RELIGION, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED: +THIS WILL ONLY OBSCURE THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM AND COULD ALSO DESTROY MUSLIM UNITY.

+THIS EVIL THREAT IS VIEWED WITH CONCERN AND IF IT BEGINS TO TAKE ROOT OR SEEP IN, WE ALL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO CURTAIL IT.+

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT THE 15TH CENTURY OF HIJRAH IS SEEN BY MUSLIMS ALL OVER THE WORLD AS AN ERA OF THE REVIVAL OF ISLAM TO RECLAIM ITS EMINENCE AND TO RESTORE THE PRIDE OF MUSLIMS.

HE REGRETTED, HOWEVER, THE EXISTENCE OF A GROUP WHICH IN STRIVING TO ACHIEVE THOSE ASPIRATIONS, CHOSE A PATH FOCUSING ON THE AFTER-LIFE BY DENOUNCING ALL CONTACTS OF A WORLDLY NATURE.

—BERNAMA MORE 2155/AH

N177

MAHATHIR - ISLAM 3 KUALA LUMPUR

FOR THIS GROUP, LIVING IN ISOLATION FROM THE COMMUNITY, BEING ABLE TO PRAY AND POSSESSING SUFFICIENT SUBSTINENCE IS THE WAY OF LIFE CALLED FOR BY THE RELIGION. EVERYTHING ELSE IS CONSIDERED UNISLAMIC, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT THERE WAS ANOTHER GROUP WHICH VIEWED THE REVIVAL OF ISLAM IN THE 15TH CENTURY OF HIJRAH AS A SIGNAL TO START A TOTAL REVOLUTION, TO DESTROY EVERYTHING AND TO BUILD A NEW ISLAMIC SYSTEM OF RULE AND GOVERNMENT AS A NEW BEGINNING.

BOTH BOTH THESE GROUPS DESIRE TO INFLUENCE THE ISLAMIC WORLD TO ACCEPT AND PRACTICE THEIR PRINCIPLES, WHICH IF ACCEPTED BY THE MAJORITY OF MUSLIMS COULD BRING DESTRUCTION TO MUSLIMS THEMSELVES, HE ADDED.

+WHAT IS SAD IS THAT THESE GROUPS DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CAPABILITY OF MUSLIMS TODAY, THE TRUE TEACHINGS AND PRINCIPLES OF ISLAM, OBSTACLES, AND THE DANGERS THAT MUST BE FACED AS A RESULT OF THEIR PROPOSED ACTION.

+THEY DO NOT THINK OF THE WISDOM OF THE STRUGGLE OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD AND HIS DISCIPLES, WITH THE WAY SHOWN BY ALLAH, WHICH CLEARLY SHOWS TO US THE IMPORTANCE OF STRATEGY, TACTICS AND DIPLOMACY IN THE STRUGGLE FOR ISLAM. +—BERNAMA MORE 2243/AH
FIRST PARA PSE READ.... IS CONSIDERED UNISLAMIC,.....

N178

MAHATHIR - ISLAM 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THE REVIVAL OF THE EMINENCE OF ISLAM DESIRED IS ONE BASED ON ATTRIBUTES WHICH ARE HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM AND RESPECTED BY PEOPLE.

HE SAID: +ISLAM WAS NOT DEVELOPED BY SHEDDING THE BLOOD OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE DONE NO WRONG, CAUSING DISUNITY AMONG MUSLIMS AND TWISTING THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM BY SPREADING FALSEHOOD FOR SELF-INTEREST OR THAT OF GROUP POLITICS.+

HE ADDED THAT THE EMINENCE OF ISLAM MEANS A STRONG FAITH, UNITY AS WELL AS UNDERSTANDING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, KNOWLEDGE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION AND OTHER FACTORS WHICH COULD SERVE AS A SHIELD TO PROTECT MUSLIMS FROM THE FALSEHOOD AND THREATS OF ELEMENTS OUT TO DESTROY THEM.

+THIS SHOULD BE THE STRUGGLE OF MUSLIMS AS ANY WEAKNESS AMONG MUSLIMS IN ANY ASPECT WILL ONLY PROLONG THE SITUATION WHERE MUSLIMS ARE INFLUENCED AND HELD IN THE POWER OF OTHERS,+ HE SAID.

DATUK DR. SERI MAHATHIR SUGGESTED THAT THE ORGANISATION OF THE ESSAY COMPETITION SHOULD MARK THE BEGINNING OF LITERARY EFFORTS BASED ON ISLAM IN THE COUNTRY.—BERNAMA MORE 2252/AH

N179

MAHATHIR - ISLAM 5 KUALA LUMPUR

HE REGRETTED THERE WAS AT PRESENT A LACK OF ISLAMIC LITERATURE WHICH COULD MOVE THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY AND ACT AS A SHIELD IN FACING THE CHALLENGES NOW AND IN FUTURE.

EARLIER, THE MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTERS DEPARTMENT, DATUK HAJI MOHAMAD BIN NASIR SAID THE DEWAN BAHASA WILL PUBLISH THE WINNING ESSAYS IN THE COMPETITION.—BERNAMA 2255/AH

MAHATHIR - ISLAM 6 KUALA LUMPUR (REOPENS ITEM 179)

BM

HE ADDED THAT THE ENCOURAGING RESPONSE TO THE COMPETITION REFLECTED A HEALTHY REACTION BY THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY TO THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS.

DATUK HAJI JOHAMAD, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE 15TH CENTURY OF HIJRAH CELEBRATIONS, SAID THAT THE COMPETITION HAD BROUGHT ABOUT A LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH MUSLIMS COULD BE PROUD OF AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS IN IMPLANTING ISLAMIC VALUES IN THEIR COMPOSITIONS.

THE COMPETITION, DIVIDED INTO SECTIONS FOR SHORT STORIES, DRAMA, POETRY, NOVELS, ESSAY AND ISLAMIC RESEARCH, WAS LAUNCHED IN NOVEMBER 1980.

IN THE ISLAMIC ESSAY SECTION FOR STUDENTS, CIK HAPIPAH HASSAM, 20 FROM BATU PAHAT, JOHORE WON THE FIRST PRIZE OF \$2,000 WITH HER ENTRY ENTITLED +PANDANGAN ISLAM DALAM KONTEKS PEMBANGUNAN+ (THE ISLAMIC VIEW IN THE CONTEXTS OF DEVELOPMENT).

THE SECOND PRIZE OF \$1,500 WENT TO ZAMBRI ABDUL KADIR, 20 FROM PARIT BUNTAR, PERAK, FOR HIS ENTRY ENTITLED +PENDIDIKAN ISLAM DALAM HUBUNGAN MASYARAKAT KINI+ (ISLAMIC EDUCATION IN THE CONTEXT OF TODAY'S COMMUNITY) AND THE THIRD PRIZE OF \$1,000 WAS WON BY ZALIH IBRAHIM, 18, FROM KUALA TRENGGANU, FOR HER WORK ENTITLED +FAKTOR-FAKTOR KELEMAHAN PEMBACAAN AL-QURAN DI KALANGAN PELAJAR HARI INI+ (WEAKNESSES IN THE KORAN-READING ABILITIES OF STUDENTS TODAY).
—BERNAMA MORE 2357/AH

N197:

MAHATHIR-ISLAM 7 KUALA LUMPUR

IN THE POETRY SECTION, THERE WERE NO WINNERS FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND PRIZES. THE THIRD PRIZE OF \$2,500 WAS WON BY SUHAIMI HAJI MUHAMMAD, 48, A LOCAL POET FROM DEWAN BAHASA WITH HIS POEM CALLED +DIMALAM GELITA INI.+

AN ESSAY ON +ISLAM DI MALAYSIA - SETAKAT MANA KEBEBASANNYA+ WON HAMDAN INDAH, 26, THE FIRST PRIZE OF \$3,000 IN THE OPEN SECTION.

THE SECOND PRIZE OF \$2,500, WAS WON BY IBRAHIM ABU BAKAR, 32, WITH HIS ESSAY ON +TAKFIR: SATU PENJELASAN RINGKAS+ AND THE THIRD PRIZE OF \$2,000 WENT TO MOHAMED SIDIN AHMAD ISHAK, 23, FOR HIS ESSAY +TENTANGAN DUNIA MODERN - KEPERLUAN TERHADAP ISLAM.+

A SHORT STORY ENTITLED +MADRASAH+ BY ABDUL RAHMAN HARUN, 27, WON THE SECOND PRIZE IN THE SHORT STORY SECTION, WHILE THE THIRD PRIZE OF \$2,000 WENT TO WARDZIAH BINTI ABDUL RAHMAN, 27, FOR HER STORY +HANYALAH HEMBUSAN ANGIN SAHAJA.+ THERE WAS NO WINNER FOR THE FIRST PRIZE.

THERE WAS ALSO NO FIRST PRIZE WINNER IN THE DRAMA SECTION. THE SECOND PRIZE OF \$3,000 WAS WON BY ABDUL RAHIM ABDULLAH, 34, FOR HIS WORK +ASAR BELUM BERAKHIR+ WHICH WAS STAGED AFTER THE PRIZE PRESENTATION.

THE THIRD PRIZE OF \$2,000 WAS WON BY A DRAMA ENTITLED +HIKMAH+ WRITTEN BY ABDUL RAHMAN HANAFIAH, 37, A STAGE AND TV DRAMA SCRIPT WRITER. — BERNAMA 0015/A1