

NO47 (F)
MAHATHIR-RELIGION
BM

BY ABDUL RAHMAN SULAIMAN

ALOR STAR, MARCH 28 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD)
TODAY EXPOSED THE ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN GROUPS IN THE COUNTRY
MAKING EFFORTS TO WEAKEN THE FAITH OF MALAYS IN THE ISLAMIC
RELIGION.

SUCH ACTIVITIES HE SAID, HAD BEEN, WERE AND WOULD BE CONTINUING,
AND IF MUSLIMS WERE NOT CAREFUL THEY MIGHT BE INFLUENCED AND THUS
LOSE THEIR FAITH.

THE PRIME MINISTER CITED THE ACTIVITIES OF A GROUP KNOWN AS
+CRYPTO+ WHOSE LEADERS WERE ARRESTED RECENTLY AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE
EFFORTS BEING MADE TO WEAKEN THE ISLAMIC FAITH IN THE COUNTRY.

HE THEN GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT AS HEAD OF A RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT
HE COULD NOT JUST LET SUCH ACTIVITIES CONTINUE.

+ALTHOUGH THE LEADERS OF THE TEACHINGS OF CRYPTO HAVE BEEN
ARRESTED, WE ARE SURE THERE ARE STILL MANY OF THEIR FOLLOWERS IN
HIDING TRYING TO INFLUENCE OTHER PEOPLE,+ DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR
SAID WHEN OPENING A RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP COURSE FOR ABOUT 200
KADIS, RELIGIOUS TEACHERS, IMAMS AND QURAN TEACHERS FROM
KUBANG PASU DISTRICT IN JITRA, ABOUT 19 KM FROM HERE.

-- BERNAMA MORE 1345/SZ

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HE ADDED THAT THE TEACHINGS OF CRYPTO, WHICH HAD "NOT A FEW"
FOLLOWERS IN SEVERAL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, CLAIMED THAT ITS
LEADERS, WHO POSED AS "IMAM MAHADI", HAD RECEIVED THE DIVINE
REVELATION FROM GOD TO SPREAD THE LAST RELIGION IN THIS WORLD.

THE TEACHINGS ARE SAID TO BE BASED ON THE BIBLE AND SUPPORTED
BY THE ZIONIST FAITH, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR THEN WARNED MUSLIMS NOT TO TREAT THE
MATTER LIGHTLY.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH IT HAD PROBABLY NEVER CROSSED THE MINDS OF
MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY THAT THE RELIGION OF THEIR BIRTH COULD BE
TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM, THEY SHOULD NOT REJECT THE POSSIBILITY.

"PROOF OF THIS CAN BE SEEN IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD
WHERE ISLAM HAS BECOME ONLY A LEGACY," HE ADDED.

"IN THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED MOSQUES WHICH AT ONE TIME WERE THE
PLACES OF WORSHIP FOR MUSLIMS ARE NOW LEFT AS MUSEUMS FOR THE
EXHIBITION OF ANCIENT ARTIFACTS AND ISLAM IS CONSIDERED AS ONE
PART OF IT." -- BERNAMA MORE 1352/LK

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE ONLY WAY FOR MUSLIMS TO MAINTAIN A FIRM FAITH IN THE RELIGION WAS TO TRULY UNDERSTAND THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM AND TO PRACTICE THEM.

'BUT, IF WE PURPOSELY WRONGLY INTERPRETE THE TEACHINGS FOR OUR OWN INTERESTS, ENCOURAGE DISUNITY OR DO NOT LIVE ACCORDING TO THE FAITH OR DO NOT MAKE EFFORTS TO EXPAND OUR KNOWLEDGE AS REQUIRED BY ISLAM, OUR FAITH COULD BE EASILY LOST,' HE ADDED.

HE REMINDED THE PEOPLE THAT IT WAS ONLY THROUGH A REAL UNDERSTANDING OF ISLAM THAT MUSLIMS COULD INTEGRATE ISLAM WITH THE MODERN WAY OF LIFE.

HE SAID: 'ISLAM IS NOT AN OBSOLETE RELIGION BUT ONE HANDED DOWN TO THE PEOPLE AND SUITABLE FOR ALL TIME.

'IT IS UP TO ITS FOLLOWERS TO INTEGRATE ITS TEACHINGS WITH THEIR DAILY LIFE AND SURROUNDINGS.'

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR PLEDGED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSTANTLY MAKE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM IN THE COUNTRY. -- BERNAMA MORE 1416/LK

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THUS FAR, MANY CHANGES HAD BEEN MADE AND PROGRESS ACHIEVED AS A RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS, HE SAID.

HE ADDED: 'WE MUST BE THANKFUL THAT THE COUNTRY POSSESSES MANY EXPERTS IN THE RELIGIOUS FIELD AND WHO ARE NOT ONLY ACCLAIMED NATIONALLY BUT ALSO INTERNATIONALLY.

'THIS DID NOT JUST COME ABOUT BY ITSELF BUT RESULTED FROM THE EFFORTS AND ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT.' -- BERNAMA

SETAKAT INIPUN TELAH BANYAK PERUBAHAN YANG DIBUAT DAN KEMAJUAN YANG DICAPAI HASIL DARI USAHA YANG DIJALANKAN OLEH KERAJAAN.

+KITA HARUS BERSYUKUR BAHAWA NEGARA INI BANYAK MEMPUNYAI PAKAR-PAKAR DALAM BIDANG AGAMA YANG BUKAN SAHAJA DIAKUI DI PERINGKAT KEBANGSAAN, TETAPI JUGA DI PERINGKAT ANTARABANGSA.

+INI TIDAK TERJADI BEGITU SAHAJA TETAPI IA LAHIR DARI USAHA DAN GALAKAN YANG DIBERIKAN OLEH KERAJAAN,+ KATANYA. -- BERNAMA 1302/AI