

MAHATHIR-ISLAM
BM

82 (P)
BANGI, MAY 3 (BERNAMA)--DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY STRESSED THE NEED FOR ISLAMIC COMMUNITY LEADERS TO KNOW THE PROPER STANDING OF MUSLIMS IN THE PRESENT EVER-CHANGING ENVIRONMENT.

FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND THIS WOULD MAKE THEM INEFFECTIVE AS LEADERS OF THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY, HE SAID.

HE SAID VIEWS WHICH DID NOT TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE PRESENT PROCESS OF MODERNISATION WOULD CONFUSE THE MUSLIMS AND HAMPER THEIR CAPABILITY TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES AND QUESTIONS ARISING FROM THE PRESENT GLOBAL TREND OF LACKING INTEREST IN RELIGION.

HE SAID THIS WHEN OPENING A ONE-WEEK NATIONAL LEVEL COURSE ON ISLAM AT THE UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA TODAY. THE COURSE ORGANISED BY THE MALAYSIAN DAKWAH ISLAMIAH FOUNDATION (YADIM) AND RABITAH AL'ALAM AL-ISLAMI IS BEING ATTENDED BY 300 IMANS AND ISLAMIC MISSIONARIES FROM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

ALSO PRESENT WERE DEPUTY MINISTER IN PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT ENCIK ANWAR IBRAHIM, YADIM ACTING PRESIDENT HAJI DUSUKI HAJI AHMAD, RABITAH DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL SHEIKH MOHAMED ALI MOKHTAR AND VICE CANCELLOR OF UKM, PROF. DATUK DR. AWANG HAD SALLEH. --BERNAMA MORE 1356/MD

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO REMINDED THE IMANS TO EMPHASISE BOTH THE DEEDS ENCOURAGED AND DISCOURAGED BY ISLAM IN THEIR FRIDAY PRAYERS SERMONS.

HE ADDED THE MOSQUE COULD NOT BE SAID TO SERVE ITS PURPOSE IN THE EYES OF THE RELIGION IF IT FAILED TO GUIDE MUSLIMS TOWARDS OBLIGATIONS PERMITTED BY ISLAM.

AS SUCH, EMPHASIS SHOULD BE GIVEN ON THESE ASPECTS BY ISLAMIC COMMUNITY LEADERS ESPECIALLY THE IMANS, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT THE IMANS WERE ALSO OBLIGED TO GIVE ADVICE AND EXPLANATION ON VARIOUS SOCIAL ISSUES SO AS TO DISPEL ANY DOUBTS ESPECIALLY THOSE RELATING TO THE COMMUNITY AND RELIGION.

IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANT ROLED PLAYED, THE IMANS WERE REQUIRED TO EXPAND THEIR KNOWLEDGE IN THE RELIGION TO EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITY. --BERNAMA 1400/MD