

MAHATHIR-QURAN

(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 10 P.M. TODAY, JUNE 13)

BM

82 (P)  
IPOH, JUNE 13 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER /DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT REMINDED MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S CALL TO THE PEOPLE TO FOLLOW THE WORK ETHICS OF THE JAPANESE AND SOUTH KOREANS DID NOT INVOLVE ANY ASPECT OF RELIGION. HE DID NOT WANT THE GOVERNMENT'S CALL TO BE MISCONSTRUED FOR ANY PURPOSE BECAUSE "ISLAM IS ISLAM AND THEIR RELIGION IS THEIR RELIGION."

HE SAID NO RELIGIOUS ELEMENT WAS INVOLVED IF THE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY FOLLOWED THE METHODS OF WORKING OR PURSUED KNOWLEDGE FROM OTHERS.

IN FACT THE CALL BY THE GOVERNMENT WAS IN LINE WITH THE TEACHINGS OF PROPHET MOHAMAD, HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT ONLY THOSE WHO DID NOT WANT MUSLIMS TO SUCCEED, BE STRONG, INDEPENDENT AND HAPPY WOULD MISINTERPRET THE GOVERNMENT'S CALL.

OPENING THE 24TH NATIONAL QURAN READING COMPETITION HERE, HE STRESSED THAT WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS THAT THE KNOWLEDGE AND WAY OF WORKING WHICH THE PEOPLE LEARNT WOULD FREE THEM FROM BEING DEPENDENT ON OTHERS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1919/LK

N113: (F)

MAHATHIR-QURAN 2 IPOH (EMBARGO)

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE LEARNING OF THE WORKING METHODS IN JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA WAS PART OF EFFORTS TO PURSUE KNOWLEDGE AND THIS WAS NOT IN CONFLICT WITH ISLAM BECAUSE PROPHET MOHAMAD HIMSELF URGED MUSLIMS TO "SEEK KNOWLEDGE EVEN UP TO CHINA."

HE SAID THAT DOING THIS WAS SIMILAR TO MUSLIMS BUYING WEAPONS MADE BY OTHERS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES OR USING EQUIPMENT MADE BY OTHER COMMUNITIES TO MEET THE NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF MUSLIMS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO BETTER WAY OF ENSURING THE FUTURE OF MUSLIMS THAN BY STRENGTHENING DISCIPLINE AND DETERMINATION IN ALL FIELDS, INCLUDING EDUCATION.

HE SAID "HALAL" WORK THAT WAS DONE IN A SPIRIT OF DISCIPLINE AND EARNESTNESS AS REQUIRED BY ISLAM WAS A PIOUS DUTY.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT IF EVERY MUSLIM INDIVIDUAL SAW HIS WORK AS A PIOUS DUTY, THE MUSLIM WORKERS WOULD BECOME THE MOST DISCIPLINED AND MOST EFFECTIVE GROUP IN BUILDING UP THE NATION AND PROPAGATING ISLAM. -- BERNAMA MORE 2103/LK

N114 (F)

MAHATHIR - QURAN 3 IPOH (EMBARGO)

UNFORTUNATELY, HE SAID, THERE WERE STILL SOME MUSLIMS WHO CHOSE LIGHT WORK AND WORK THAT DID NOT REQUIRE SKILLS, DETERMINATION AND DISCIPLINE.

MUCH IMPORTANT WORK WAS BEING HANDED OVER TO OTHERS BECAUSE IT WAS NOT PLEASANT OR DID NOT INTEREST THE MUSLIMS AND MANY OF THEM WERE NOT WILLING TO WORK WITH OTHERS WHETHER THESE PEOPLE WERE OF THE SAME RELIGION OR NOT.

AS A RESULT, MUSLIMS AND THEIR NATIONS BECAME WEAK BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT INDEPENDENT AND SELF-RELIANT, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO HIT OUT AT CERTAIN MUSLIMS WHO BLINDLY ACCEPTED THE VIEWS OF A GROUP OF WESTERN SOCIALISTS WHO CLAIMED THAT THE CALL TO MUSLIMS TO WORK HARD WOULD TURN THEM INTO ROBOTS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT IN FACT SUCH VIEWS WERE ESPOUSED BY THOSE WHO DID NOT WANT OTHERS TO WORK HARD OR PROGRESS AND COMPETE WITH THEM. -- BERNAMA MORE 2105/MK

MAHATHIR - QURAN 4 IPOH (EMBARGO)

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT MUSLIMS SHOULD ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THEY WERE STILL WEAK, BACKWARD AND LACKED CAPABILITY, DISCIPLINE AND RESOLUTENESS.

HE SAID THE MUSLIMS MUST MAKE USE ALL THEIR RESOURCES, ENERGY AND POTENTIAL TO CHANGE THEIR FUTURE.

HE SAID IT WAS UNFORTUNATE TO SEE MUSLIMS IGNORE MATTERS IN WHICH DISCIPLINE AND RESOLUTENESS WERE REQUIRED BECAUSE THESE CONFLICTED WITH THEIR DESIRES.

IT WAS NO USE FOR THEM TO ONLY TALK ABOUT THE GLORY AND HONOUR OF ISLAM OR HOW COMPLETE AND IDEAL THE RELIGION WAS IF THEY DID NOT SEE THE TRUTH ABOUT THEMSELVES AS A MUSLIM, HE ADDED.

ISLAM, HE SAID, WAS A DYNAMIC AND NOT PASSIVE RELIGION. -- BERNAMA MORE 2110/MK

N116 (F)

MAHATHIR - QURAN 5 IPOH (EMBARGO)

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO ASKED MUSLIMS TO CORRECT THE NARROW CONCEPT ABOUT ISLAMIC MISSIONARY WORK.

THEY MUST CARRY OUT MISSIONARY WORK WITH FULL REALISATION AND UNDERSTANDING HE ADDED.

EARLIER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL QURAN READING COMPETITION COMMITTEE, DATUK SERI KAMARUDDIN HAJI MOHAMAD ISA, WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC DAKWAH FOUNDATION, SAID IT HAD SET UP AN ISLAMIC GUIDANCE SERVICE UNIT.

THE SERVICE WAS AIMED AT ASSISTING THE PEOPLE SOLVE PROBLEMS REGARDING RELIGION, THE COMMUNITY AND YOUTH AND THE UNIT COULD BE REACHED BY TELEPHONE OR LETTER OR PERSONALLY.

HE ALSO SAID THE ISLAMIC RESEARCH CENTRE OF THE RELIGIOUS DIVISION IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT HAD DETECTED ABOUT 40 FORMS OF DEVIATIONIST TEACHINGS AND STEPS TO CHECK THEM WERE BEING INTENSIFIED. -- BERNAMA MORE 2112/MK

N118 (F)

MAHATHIR - QURAN 6 IPOH (EMBARGO)

HE ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO THE LATE TUN SYED NASIR ISMAIL FOR HIS SERVICES IN PROPAGATING ISLAM DURING HIS 14 YEARS OF SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL QURAN READING COMMITTEE.

PERAK MENTRI BESAR DATUK SERI HAJI WAN MOHAMAD HAJI WAN TEH SAID THE STATE GOVERNMENT WAS IMPLEMENTING SEVERAL ISLAMIC PROJECTS IN THE STATE.

THEY INCLUDED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NINE-STOREY ISLAMIC COMPLEX WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 1984.

THE \$20 MILLION COMPLEX WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MUSLIMS NOT ONLY IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD BUT ALSO SPIRITUALLY, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA MORE 2115/MK

MAHATHIR - QURAN 7 IPOH (EMBARGO)

HE ALSO CALLED ON THE PEOPLE TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS EFFORTS TO CHECK THE EFFECTS OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC RECESSION.

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME THE NATIONAL-LEVEL COMPETITION IS HELD OUTSIDE THE FEDERAL CAPITAL.

LAST YEAR, THE COMPETITION WAS HELD IN SEREMBAN. -- BERNAMA 2118/MK