

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG. 19 (BERNAMA)-- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS STRESSED ON THE NEED FOR ALL MALAYSIANS TO HAVE HIGH SPIRITUAL VALUES, BETTER WORK ETHICS AND GREATER LOVE FOR THE COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAYS THESE QUALITIES ARE NEEDED TO MAKE MALAYSIA A HEALTHY AND STRONG NATION CAPABLE OF SUSTAINING ITS INDEPENDENCE AND BEING AT PAR WITH THE MORE ADVANCED COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD.

HE ALSO EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR WORKERS TO STRICTLY OBSERVE PUNCTUALITY AND HONESTY AND TO HAVE A SENSE OF PRIDE OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN ADDITION TO BEING FREE FROM CORRUPTION.

IN AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF +BULETIN INTAN+ -- THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID LACK OF PUNCTUALITY CREATES ALL KINDS OF UNDUE PROBLEMS.

APART FROM CAUSING ANXIETY ON THE PART OF THOSE WAITING, THE DELAY COULD ALSO THROW PROGRAMMES OUT OF STEP AND CREATE ALL KINDS OF INCONVENIENCES. -- MORE 1758/AH

N111 (F)

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+WORK CANNOT BE DONE AS THE TIME MAY BE FORESHORTENED. EVERYONE IS AFFECTED ADVERSELY IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. PLANNING BECOMES MEANINGLESS,+ HE SAID.

+IN THE CONDUCT OF WAR, FAILURE TO BE PUNCTUAL WILL RESULT IN LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN DIFFERENT MOVES. THE RESULT OF SUCH INCOORDINATION IS THE REDUCTION OF THE STRENGTH OF THE WHOLE TO THAT OF THE COMPONENT UNITS,+ HE ADDED.

ON HONESTY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ONE SHOULD NOT EXPECT OTHERS TO WORK HARD AND BE HONEST IF HE DOES NOT WORK HARD AND HONEST HIMSELF.

HE SAID IF EVERYONE PRACTICES DOUBLE STANDARDS, ONLY THE BAD QUALITIES OF THESE STANDARDS WOULD SHOW UP.

HE SAID: +AS WE KNOW DOUBLE STANDARD MEANS THAT ONE DOES NOT PRACTISE THE GOOD QUALITIES ONESELF. IF ONE DOES NOT AND OTHERS DO NOT, THEN WHO DOES? THE ANSWER IS NO ONE.+ -- MORE 1801/AH

N112 (F)

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THE PRIME MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH A PERFECT SOCIETY PRACTICING THE PERFECT SYSTEM OF ETHICS DID NOT EXIST, MALAYSIANS COULD STRIVE TOWARDS THAT GOAL.

AS IT WAS NOW, HE REGRETTED THAT EVEN THE MUSLIMS WHO HAD BEEN GIVEN THE SYSTEM OF ETHICS WERE UNABLE TO CREATE A PERFECT SOCIETY.

+FAR TOO MANY OF THEIR GOOD ETHICS ARE IGNORED OR INTERPRETATIONS ARE MADE IN ORDER TO CONFUSE GOOD ETHICS WITH NARROW SELF-INTERESTS OF GROUPS WISHING TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE MUSLIM SOCIETY.+

+MALAYSIANS CAN STRIVE FOR THE PERFECT SOCIETY BUT A SMALL BEGINNING IS FAR BETTER THAN ALL THE PIOUS TALKS OF ATTAINING PERFECTION,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER FELT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL VALUES SHOULD PERMEATE THE WHOLE SOCIETY TO SUBDUCE +THE KIND OF RAMPANT MATERIALISM THAT BREEDS AVARICE AND UNSCRUPULOUSNESS.+ -- MORE 1805/AH

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HE SAID: +IF TOGETHER WITH THIS IS COUPLED GOOD WORK ETHICS LIKE DOING AN HONEST DAY'S WORK NOT ONLY FOR THE MATERIAL RETURN BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THE CONTRIBUTION THAT WORK MAKES TOWARDS SOCIETY, THEN THE MALAYSIAN SOCIETY WOULD BE A NEAR PERFECT AS IS POSSIBLE.+

+IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE A RELATIVELY PROSPEROUS SOCIETY WITHOUT TOO MUCH ENVY AND AVARICE THAT CAN BRING DISSENSION AND WRECK SOCIETY.+

ON THE NEED TO HAVE HIGH SPIRITUAL VALUES, THE PRIME MINISTER WROTE: +SPIRITUAL VALUES ARE NECESSARY BECAUSE THEY BALANCE THE AVARICE OF TRENCANT MATERIALISM. THEY MAKE SUBMISSION TO HIGHER IDEALS EASIER..

CORRECTLY INTERPRETED, SPIRITUAL VALUES WILL ENHANCE THE SO-CALLED +HUMAN QUALITIES+ THAT ENABLES TOLERANCE, JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS TO PREVAIL OVER BASE SENTIMENTS AND PROCLIVITIES.

-- MORE 1822/AH

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GOOD WORK ETHICS ARE THE SINE QUO NON OF THE WELL SOCIETY. NOTHING CAN BE DONE IN A SOCIETY WHERE GOOD WORK ETHICS OF SOME DEGREE DO NOT PREVAIL.

THUS A WILLINGNESS TO WORK HARD AND WITH HONESTY WHETHER FOR ONE'S OWN SELF OR FOR ONE'S EMPLOYER MUST BRING ABOUT SOME DEGREE OF SUCCESS WHATEVER THE OTHER FACTORS ARE.

OF COURSE, IF THE OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS RESOURCES, CLIMATE, POLITICAL STIBILITY, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM ARE ALSO REASONABLY GOOD, THE CHANCES AND DEGREE OF SUCCESS WOULD BE EVEN BETTER.

IN MALAYSIA, WE HAVE ALL THOSE OTHER FACTORS. WHAT WE NEED IS AN IMPROVEMENT IN OUR WORK ETHICS. WE NEED TO DO AN HONEST DAY'S WORK HONESTLY.

WE NEED TO BE DISCIPLINED AND DEDICATED. WE NEED TO ACQUIRE SKILLS THROUGH ENFORCED EXPEREINCE OR THROUGH DELIBERATE LEARNING.

WE NEED TO CONSIDER WORK AS DUTY NOT MERELY TO ONESELF BUT TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE NATION.+ --BERNAMA 1828/AH