

MAHATHIR - ISLAM  
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KUNDASANG (SABAH), AUG. 29 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR TODAY HIT OUT AT RELIGIOUS TEACHERS WHO PRACTISED DEVIATIONIST TEACHINGS THAT COULD AFFECT THE DEVELOPMENT AND SOLIDARITY OF THE MUSLIMS.

TEACHINGS SUCH AS NOT ALLOWING THE PEOPLE TO WATCH TELEVISION OR USE TABLES AND CHAIRS WERE NONSENSE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AT A CEREMONY HERE WHERE 423 PEOPLE EMBRACED ISLAM.

HE SAID THE ACTIONS OF THE TEACHERS NOT ONLY MADE OTHERS AFRAID TO EMBRACE THE RELIGION BUT WOULD ALSO MAKE THOSE MUSLIM WHOSE FAITH WERE NOT STRONG TO LEAVE THE RELIGION.

THEIR ACTIONS IN DEVIATING FROM THE TRUE TEACHINGS WAS SCRILEGIOUS, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT ISLAM WAS A 'FLEXIBLE' RELIGION AND NOT A NEGATIVE ONE. -- MORE 1900/PA

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HE SAID THAT EVERY RELIGION CONTAINED PROHIBITIONS FOR THE GOOD OF THE FOLLOWERS.

HE SAID THAT ISLAM ENCOURAGED ITS FOLLOWERS TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR URGED MUSLIMS, ESPECIALLY THE CONVERTS, NOT TO BE INFLUENCED BY MISINTERPRETATIONS SPREAD BY CERTAIN RELIGIOUS TEACHERS.

HE ALSO CALLED ON THE MUSLIMS TO ENHANCE THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE RELIGION SO THAT THEY COULD FACE ALL CHALLENGES.

PRESENT WERE SABAH CHIEF MINISTER DATUK HARRIS SALLEH AND OTHER DIGNITARIES. -- BERNAMA 1906/PA