

MAHATHIR-POLICY
BM

82 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 10 (BERNAMA)--(DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR
MAMAD TODAY UNDERScoreD THREE MAIN TASKS THAT SHOULD
BE PIONEERED BY UMNO FROM NOW TO ENSURE A BETTER LIFE FOR THE
MALAYS.

THEY ARE:

- + TO CHANGE THE ATTITUDES OF MALAYS SO THAT EHSE WOULD BE IN
LINE WITH THE NEEDS OF ISLAM IN THE MODERN TIMES;
- + TO ENHANCE ISLAMIC PRACTICES; AND
- + TO ENSURE THAT THE MALAY COMMUNITY REALLY PRACTISED ISLAMIC
TEACHINGS.

DESCRIBING THESE TASKS AS THE BIGGEST +STRUGGLE+ EXPECTED OF
UMNO SINCE ITS FORMATION 36 YEARS AGO, THE PRIME MINISTER
STRESSED THAT THEY SHOULD BE REALISED TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE
OF MAKING MALAYSIA A HIGHLY RESPECTED COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS WHEN OPENING THE 33RD
UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE.--MORE

1010/NB

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IN HIS 90-MINUTE SPEECH WHICH WAS BROADCAST LIVE OVER RADIO,
DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, EXPLAINED THE
RATIONALE BEHIND THE VARIOUS CHANGES HE MADE SINCE HE TOOK OVER
THE LEADERSHIP.

OTHER MATTERS HE TOUCHED ON INCLUDED THE RECENT GENERAL ELECTION,
CHALLENGES WHICH UMNO WOULD FACE, POLITICS AND THE ECONOMY, THE
+LOOK EAST+ POLICY, THE +KAFIR-MENKAFIR+ AND THE FREEMASON ISSUES
AND THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY.

HE SAID THAT THOUGH UMNO HAD SUCCEEDED IN DEFEATING THE MALAYAN
UNION, ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE, RESTORING THE DIGNITY OF THE
MALAYS, PROPOGATING ISLAM, RULING IN A JUST MANNER AND BRINGING
ABOUT DEVELOPMENT, THE STRUGGLE HE WAS PROPOSING WAS BIGGER THAN
THESE PAST STRUGGLES.

HE SAID THAT THIS WAS IMPORTANT BECAUSE UP TILL NOW THE MALAYS
MERELY TALKED ABOUT ISLAM BUT WHAT THEY PRACTISED WAS DIFFERENT.

--MORE 1039/AN

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HE SAID THEY TALKED ABOUT BROTHERHOOD IN ISLAM BUT AMONG THEM WERE THOSE WHO CREATED ISSUES THAT SPLIT THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY.

+THEY TALKED ABOUT SEEKING KNOWLEDGE BUT THEY DID NOT DO SO. THEY TALKED ABOUT THE RESILIENCE OF THE MUSLIMS BUT DID NOT STRIVE TOWARDS ACHIEVING THIS,+ HE ADDED.

HE WARNED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT HESITATE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST ANYONE WHO TRIED TO COMMIT SACRILEGE AGAINST THE SANCTITY OF ISLAM OR TO ERODE THE FAITH OF THE MUSLIMS.

UNDER THE CONSTITUTION, ISLAM WAS THE OFFICIAL RELIGION OF THE COUNTRY AND AS SUCH IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT THE MUSLIMS FROM DEVIATIONIST TEACHINGS.

--MORE 1053/AN

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THE PRIME MINISTER QUOTED INCIDENTS LIKE PRAYING WITH TWO IMAMS, SEPARATE BURIAL GROUNDS FOR MUSLIMS, USING OF POLITICAL PARTY SYMBOL ON COFFINS AND THE SPLIT IN THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY PARTICULARLY IN TRENGGANU AS EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES WHICH WERE AGAINST ISLAM AND TARNISHED ITS IMAGE.

WHILE NAMING SEVERAL PAS MEMBERS AS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE INCIDENTS DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED:

+I WISH TO WARN PAS LEADERS WHO POLLUTE ISLAM AND MISLEAD MUSLIMS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE ACTIONS AGAINST THEM TO MAKE THEM STOP SUCH ACTIVITIES+.

+THE GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE TO SAFEGUARD AND PROTECT THE MUSLIM UMMAH IN THIS COUNTRY FROM ALL DEVIATIONIST TEACHINGS+.

+POLITICAL LEADERS WHO ARE POWER HUNGRY WOULD NOT BE SPARED FROM THE LAW WHICH WOULD BE ENFORCED BY THE GOVERNMENT+, HE SAID.

HOWEVER HE DID NOT INDICATE THE KIND OF ACTION THAT WOULD BE TAKEN.

--MORE 1055/AN

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EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR CONCEDED THAT FOR THE PAST ONE YEAR HE HAD ADOPTED A LIBERAL POLICY IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COUNTRY.

THIS WAS EVIDENT FROM THE FACT THAT MORE DETAINEES WERE RELEASED AN OPTION PROPOSAL WAS MADE FOR HARD CORE COMMUNISTS WHO WERE WILLING TO BE ACCEPTED BY FOREIGN COUNTRIES; THE FREEDOM GIVEN TO NEWSPAPERS AND THE APPROVAL FOR THE PUBLICATION OF MORE NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES.

HE REGRETTED THIS FREEDOM HAD BEEN MISUSED BY SOME WHO CONSIDERED IT AS A LICENCE TO DO WHAT THEY LIKED. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD HOPED THAT THEY WOULD VALUE AND PROTECT THE FREEDOM GIVEN.

HE SAID THERE WERE THOSE WHO MISUSED THE PROCESS OF LAW BY USING FOREIGN PRESSURE TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF CRIMINALS WHO HAD BEEN PROSECUTED ACCORDING TO THE PROCESS OF LAW.

+IN THE FIELD OF NEWSPAPERS, WHEN FREEDOM WAS GIVEN, SOME NEWSPAPERS USE SEX AND SCANDAL TO BOOST THEIR SALES+.
--MORE 1111/AN

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ON THE SURFACE, THE NEWSPAPERS APPEARED TO BE TAKING A SERIOUS VIEW OF THE SCANDALS.

HOWEVER, IN FACT, WHAT WAS IMPORTANT TO THEM WAS THE SALES OF THEIR NEWSPAPERS, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT WILD ACCUSATIONS WERE MADE WITHOUT TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE EFFECTS ON THOSE ACCUSED.

THE NEWSPAPERS WERE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE RELUCTANCE OF THOSE ACCUSED WANTING PUBLICITY, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT TOOK A SERIOUS VIEW OF THE MATTER AND WARNED THAT IF THIS CONTINUED IT MIGHT REVIEW ITS LIBERAL STAND.

--MOR E 1114/AN

MAHATHIR-POLICY 7 KUALA LUMPUR

+WE ARE LIBERAL BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT THE MALAYSIAN SOCIETY HAS ALREADY MATURED BUT IF THERE IS NO APPRECIATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORCED TO END ITS LIBERISM WHICH IS BEING ABUSED+, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO REMINDED CERTAIN GROUPS THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE SHOULD NOT BE LOOKED UPON AS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE REITERATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT HAVE ANY PLAN TO ABOLISH THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT SO LONG AS ACTIVITIES THAT THREATENED THE PEACE OF THE COUNTRY CONTINUED TO BE DESIRED BY THESE GROUPS.

ON THE +LOOK EAST+ POLICY, HE FELT THAT IT WAS IN LINE WITH THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM.

HE SAID THAT ATTITUDES LIKE DILIGENCE, DESIRE TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE, EARN A LIVING AND OTHER GOOD VALUES SHOULD BE EMULATE FROM THE SUCCESSFUL ORIENTAL COUNTRIES SUCH AS JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA.

SUCH ATTITUDES WERE HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM AND PREACHED BY ISLAM, HE ADDED.

--BERNAMA 1119/AN