

MAHATHIR-ISLAM

83  
SUNGGAI PETANI, JUNE 3 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR-  
MOHAMAD SAID TODAY NON-MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY WILL NEVER BE OPPRESSED  
SO LONG AS THEY DO NOT ACT AGAINST ISLAM.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT CERTAIN QUARTERS HAD ASKED THAT  
+ALL THINGS UNISLAMIC+ BE WIPED OUT FROM THE COUNTRY BECAUSE ISLAM  
IS THE OFFICIAL RELIGION.

+THESE PEOPLE MUST REMEMBER THAT HAVING ISLAM AS THE OFFICIAL  
RELIGION DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE CAN FORCE OTHERS TO DO AS WE WISH,+  
HE ADDED WHEN LAUNCHING WORK ON THE EXTENSION TO THE AL-AMIN  
MOSQUE AT SUNGGAI LAYANG NEAR HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THESE PEOPLE HAD, FOR EXAMPLE,  
ASKED THAT ALL OTHER BANKS BE CLOSED AFTER BANK ISLAM IS ESTABLISHED.

+THERE IS NO REASON FOR US TO ACT THIS WAS EVEN THOUGH WE  
ARE IN POWER,+ HE SAID.--MORE 1735/PA

ZCZC N088 (F/S)

MAHATHIR-ISLAM 2 SUNGGAI PETANI

THE GOVERNMENT ALLOWED NON-MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY TO PRACTICE  
THEIR RELIGION BECAUSE THIS WAS THEIR RIGHT.

ALSO, THEY HAD NEVER DONE ANYTHING THAT WAS AGAINST THE INTEREST  
OF ISLAM, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT MUSLIM MINORITIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES  
WERE ALSO GUARANTEED OF FREEDOM OF WORSHIP.

+WE WANT THEM TO CONTINUE TO ENJOY THIS FREEDOM ALTHOUGH THEIR  
RULERS ARE NON-MUSLIMS,+ HE SAID.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ENSURE THAT NON-MUSLIMS  
IN THE COUNTRY WERE GIVEN THE SAME FREEDOM.--MORE 1738/PA

ZCZC N089 (F/S)

MAHATHIR-ISLAM 3 SUNGGAI PETANI

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR EXPRESSED REGRETS THAT YOUNG MUSLIM  
MEN IN THE COUNTRY WERE UNWILLING TO BE EMPLOYED IN BUILDING AN  
ISLAMIC CENTRE IN THE MALDIVES ALTHOUGH THE CONTRACT FOR  
THE PROJECT HAD BEEN AWARDED  
TO MALAYSIA.

+THIS IS SHAMEFUL BECAUSE OTHERS ARE ENGAGED IN THE ACTUAL WORK  
OF BUILDING THE CENTRE ALTHOUGH THE PROJECT IS AWARDED TO MALAYSIA,+  
HE SAID.

HE, HOWEVER, WAS PROUD THAT THE CENTRE WAS DESIGNED LIKE THE  
BANGSAR MOSQUE IN KUALA LUMPUR.--BERNAMA 1742/PA