

PM - INTERPRETATION  
BM

83  
KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 1 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY HIT OUT AT THOSE WHO MAKE RELIGIOUS INTERPRETATIONS TO SUIT THEIR OWN SELF INTEREST CLAIMING THAT THEY WERE CORRECT AND WHO HAD HAMPERED EFFORTS TO INCULCATE ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES IN THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY.

DESCRIBING THEIR ATTITUDE AS UNCONSTRUCTIVE, HE SAID THEY HAD RESULTED IN MUSLIMS BEING BACKWARD AND WEAK.

HE SAID THAT THEIR INTERPRETATION OF RELIGION COULD NOT BE TAKEN AS TRUE IF THERE WERE OTHER INTERPRETATIONS WHICH WERE MORE POSITIVE AND IF THERE WAS NONE, THE MATTER SHOULD BE STUDIED.

MANY PEOPLE HAD BEEN MAKING INTERPRETATIONS WITHOUT SUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE AND TO SUIT THEIR OWN SELF INTEREST AND THESE HAD CAUSED GREAT CONFUSION AMONG THE MUSLIMS, HE SAID AT THE LAUNCHING OF BANK ISLAM HERE. -- MORE 1549/MK

PM - INTERPRETATION 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE ADDED THAT CONFUSION WAS EVIDENT IN THE BANKING AND FINANCIAL FIELDS AMONG THE MUSLIMS BECAUSE THE WEALTH ENDOWED TO THEM HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM THEM.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID THREE-QUARTERS OF THE OIL REVENUE IN ISLAMIC COUNTRIES WERE BEING INVESTED IN THE DEVELOPED WESTERN COUNTRIES, WHILE THE REST WERE USED IN BUYING COMMODITIES MANUFACTURED BY THE WEST.

OF THE BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF THE REVENUE OF THESE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES ONLY A SMALL AMOUNT WERE BEING INVESTED IN MALAYSIA, HE SAID.

+ONE DAY THE OIL WOULD DRY UP AND WE WILL SEE THE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES AND THE MUSLIMS SUFFERING ONCE MORE,+ HE SAID.

+WE SHOULD NOT BLAME OTHER IF THIS HAPPENED. IF TODAY THE WEALTH OF THE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES COULD NOT BE INVESTED IN OTHER ISLAMIC COUNTRIES, IT IS BECAUSE WE OURSELVES CHOOSE TO OBSTRUCT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THESE COUNTRIES,+ HE SAID. -- MORE 1606/

MK

ZCZC N055

PM - INTERPRETATION 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE ALSO SAID RELIGIOUS INTERPRETERS HAD MADE NARROW INTERPRETATIONS WITHOUT OFFERING AN ALTERNATIVE TO REPLACE THE WESTERN SYSTEM WHICH THEY CLAIMED DID NOT FOLLOW ISLAMIC TENET.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT ISLAM WAS NOT MEANT TO CAUSE HARDSHIP TO THE MUSLIMS OR TO MAKE THEM BACKWARD AND UNPROGRESSIVE, IT IS FLEXIBLE TO ENABLE THEM LEAD A COMPLETE LIFE.

MALAYSIA, HE SAID, WITH ISLAM AS ITS OFFICIAL RELIGION AND 53 PER CENT OF ITS POPULATION MUSLIMS, HAS THE FACILITIES TO ENABLE MUSLIMS TO VENTURE IN ALL FIELDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ISLAMIC PRINCIPLE S.

HE CITED WRONG INTERPRETATIONS OF THE RELIGION AND MAN'S OWN WEAKNESSES AS OBSTRUCTIONS IN IMPLEMENTING ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES IN SOCIETY. -- BERNAMA 1602/MK