

MAHATHIR-ULAMAK

BM

83. P
PETALING JAYA, AUG. 5 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY WARNED MUSLIMS NOT TO BE SWAYED BY A GROUP CALLING THEMSELVES ULAMAKS OR USTAZ AND USING ARABIC TO DISSEMINATE TEACHINGS THAT WERE NOT IN LINE WITH ISLAM.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THERE WERE SUCH PEOPLE GIVING FALSE TEACHINGS AND INTERPRETATION IN VARIOUS PLACES IN THE COUNTRY AND THE MUSLIMS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO WERE NOT WELL-VERSED WITH ISLAM, WOULD BE TAKEN IN BY THESE PEOPLE.

+THESE PEOPLE USE ARABIC BECAUSE AMONG THE MALAY COMMUNITY IN THIS COUNTRY, ARABIC IS CONSIDERED SYNONYMOUS WITH ISLAM.

+THESE PEOPLE KNOW THAT IF THEY USE OTHER LANGUAGES, THE PEOPLE WOULD NOT READILY BELIEVE THEM BECAUSE ARABIC IS THE LANGUAGE OF THE QURAN+, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE GERAK KERJA 1983 EXHIBITION ORGANIZED BY WANITA UMNO AT THE HAJI COMPLEX AT KELANA JAYA HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HOPED THAT THE MALAYS REALISED THAT THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM COULD ALSO BE GIVEN IN BAHASA MALAYSIA.
--MORE 1708/AN

ZCZC N078 (F/S)
MAHATHIR-ULAMAKS 2 PETALING JAYA

+WE SHOULD REALISE THAT THERE ARE ARABS WHO ARE CHRISTIANS WHO SAY THEIR PRAYERS IN ARABIC BUT IN OUR COUNTRY WE CONSIDER ARABIC THE LANGUAGE OF THE QURAN AND NOT OF THE CHRISTIANS+.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR RECOUNTED HOW IN HIS SCHOOL DAYS HE WAS INFLUENCED BY A FRIEND WHO COULD SPEAK ARABIC FLUENTLY AND EVEN WHEN HE SPOKE ABOUT THINGS OUTSIDE THE QURAN, HE WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE FRIEND WAS TALKING ABOUT ISLAM BECAUSE +HE SOUNDED LIKE READING THE QURAN+.

WHILE REMINDING MUSLIMS NOT TO BE ALARMED OVER THIS MATTER, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IF THESE PEOPLE WERE REALLY ULAMAKS OR SHEIKHS (LEADERS) OF ISLAM AS THEY CLAIMED, THEN THE OTHERS SHOULD CALL THEM +ULAMAKS+.

+THESE PEOPLE GIVE THEM THE TITLE OF ULAMAKS (LEARNED PEOPLE) OR SHEIKHS OF ISLAM TO RAISE THEIR OWN SELF IMPORTANCE. I TOO AM ULAMAK (LEARNED) BUT IN ANOTHER FIELD+, HE SAID TO THE LAUGHTER OF THOSE PRESENT.

HE SAID THAT WHAT WAS IMPORTANT IN THE DISSEMINATING OF ISLAMIC TEACHINGS WAS THE GOOD INTENTION OR AIMS AS THE OTHER THINGS WERE NOT IMPORTANT.

--BERNAMA 1713/AN