

MAHATHIR - ISLAM  
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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT. 16 (BERNAMA) -- THE INJECTING OF ISLAMIC VALUES IN THE ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT THREATEN OTHER CULTURES OR POSE A PRESSURE TO NON-MUSLIMS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION WAS NEITHER PREPARED TO SIDE-STEP ISLAMIC TEACHINGS NOR TO IMPOSE ISLAMIC REGULATIONS ON THE NON-MUSLIMS.

"AS SUCH, THE INJECTING OF ISLAMIC VALUES BY THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT DESTROY OTHER VALUES IN THE COUNTRY," HE SAID IN OPENING THE 31ST MCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT WISMA MCA HERE.

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO HAD NOT INTENTION OF FORCING NON-MUSLIMS TO EMBRACE ISLAM OR ADHERE TO MUSLIM FAMILY LAWS.

HE ALSO GAVE THE ASSURANCE THAT ONLY ISLAMIC VALUES THAT ARE GENERALLY SIMILAR TO VALUES OF OTHER RACES WOULD BE INJECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

"I HOPE THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE TURNED INTO A POLITICAL ONE WITHIN OR OUTSIDE THE PARTY," HE TOLD MORE THAN 2,000 LEADERS OF THE MCA AND OTHER BARISAN NASIONAL COMPONENT PARTIES.

HE FEARED THAT IF THE ISSUE WAS MADE A POLITICAL ISSUE, IT WOULD DISRUPT HARMONY AND PEACE IN THE COUNTRY. -- MORE 1248/II  
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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ISLAM DID NOT ASK THAT THE ISLAMIC LAWS BE FORCED ON NON-MUSLIMS.

HE SAID IF THERE WAS ANY COUNTRY TODAY WHICH IMPOSED ISLAMIC LAWS ON THE NON-MUSLIMS, THIS HAPPENED NOT BECAUSE OF ISLAMIC TEACHINGS BUT BECAUSE OF THAT GOVERNMENT'S ARROGANCE IN DISREGARDING THE TRUE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM.

"THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT NOW IS NOT PREPARED TO DISREGARD ISLAMIC TEACHINGS BY IMPOSING ISLAMIC REGULATIONS ON NON-MUSLIMS," HE SAID.

THIS WAS IN LINE WITH THE PROVISION IN CLAUSE 3 OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION WHICH STATES THAT ISLAM IS THE OFFICIAL RELIGION BUT OTHER RELIGIONS MAY BE PRACTISED IN PEACE AND HARMONY IN ANY PART OF THE FEDERATION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THIS PROVISION HAD ENPOWERED THE GOVERNMENT TO REJECT CALLS FROM CERTAIN QUARTERS THAT ISLAMIC LAWS BE IMPOSED ON NON-MUSLIMS.

HOWEVER, IF MUSLIMS WANTED ISLAMIC LAWS ENFORCED ON THEMSELVES, THIS WAS THEIR RIGHT.

"THEY ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE THEIR INTERPRETATIONS ON ISLAMIC LAWS," HE ADDED. -- MORE 1250/II

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THIS WAS ALL THAT THE GOVERNMENT MEANT BY ITS INTENTION TO INJECT ISLAMIC VALUES.

'NOBODY'S RIGHTS WILL BE TOUCHED. IF CHINESE WOMEN WANT TO WEAR CHEONGSAM, THERE WILL BE NO OBJECTION, BUT IF THEY WANT TO WALK ABOUT NAKED ON THE ROADSIDE, EVEN THE CHINESE THEMSELVES WILL NOT ACCEPT THIS,' HE SAID AMIDST DELEGATES' LAUGHTER.

'AS HAS HAPPENED IN HONG KONG RECENTLY, WHEN THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT WANTED TO ALLOW HOMOSEXUALITY THE CHINESE POPULATION OBJECTED,' HE SAID.

HE SAID SUCH A MOVE WOULD DEFINITELY CREATE PROTESTS FROM THE ISLAMIC COMMUNITY AND HERE IT COULD BE SEEN THAT THE ISLAMIC VALUES WERE SIMILAR TO THE VALUES PRACTISED BY THE CHINESE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ISLAMIC VALUES DID NOT NECESSARILY MEAN ISLAMIC LAWS AND IN REALITY ISLAMIC VALUES WERE NO DIFFERENT FROM UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED GOOD AND BAD VALUES.

WHAT WAS CONSIDERED GOOD BY SOBER-THINKING PEOPLE WERE ALSO CONSIDERED GOOD BY ISLAM AND THE BAD CONSIDERED BAD LIKEWISE.

'AS SUCH, THE INJECTING OF ISLAMIC VALUES BY THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT DESTROY OTHER VALUES IN THE COUNTRY,' HE SAID. -- MORE 1255/II ZCZC ND48 (S/F)

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THERE WERE ALREADY UNHEALTHY TRENDS FROM THE WEST; TRENDS OPPOSED TO ISLAMIC AS WELL AS UNIVERSAL VALUES WHICH WERE UNFORTUNATELY ACCEPTED EVEN BY SOBER-THINKING PEOPLE.

+IN EUROPE NOW, EVEN NAKED PEOPLE CAN WALK ABOUT IN TOWNS, WOMEN CAN MARRY WOMEN AND MEN WITH MEN AND ADULTERY, SODOMY AND LESBIANISM ARE CONSIDERED ORDINARY THINGS.

+MUTUAL RESPECT AMONG HUMANS OR FOLLOWERS' RESPECT FOR LEADERS ARE NO LONGER GIVEN PRIORITY AND DIRTY TALK ARE UTTERED BY MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IN SOME PLACES SMOKING DRUGS WAS CONSIDERED A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT AND INDIVIDUALS' RIGHTS WERE CONSIDERED MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE COMMUNITY'S.

+THERE, CREATING UNREST HAS BECOME EVERYBODY'S RIGHTS AND KEEPING PROMISES IS NO LONGER CONSIDERED IMPORTANT.+

HE SAID THIS WESTERN TREND HAS SEEPED TO THE EAST AND HERE AND MANY CONSIDERED THAT WHAT WAS ACCEPTABLE IN THE WEST COULD BE ACCEPTED BY THE MALAY COMMUNITY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT ISLAM COULD NOT ACCEPT THESE VALUES AND HE WAS CONVINCED THAT ALL SOBER-THINKING PEOPLE NO MATTER WHAT RELIGION THEY PROFESSED COULD NOT ACCEPT THIS MORAL DEGENERATION.

+WHAT WE CAN ACCEPT ARE ORIENTAL CULTURAL VALUES WHICH ARE ALSO TRUE UNIVERSAL VALUES AND ALMOST ALL OF THESE VALUES ARE SIMILAR TO ISLAMIC VALUES,+ HE ADDED. --BERNAMA 1317/ND