

MAHATHIR-ISLAM
BM

83 P -
KUALA LUMPUR, OCT. 22 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD OF PROPAGATING ISLAM IS THROUGH LIVING AN EXEMPLARY LIFE.

+THE QUALITIES OF TRUSTWORTHINESS, SINCERITY, LOYALTY AND COMPASSION WILL BY THEMSELVES CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE THE VALUES OF ISLAM+, HE ADDED.

SEPAKING AT THE MAJLIS KESYUKURAN (THANKSGIVING CEREMONY) OF PERKIM HERE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ISLAMIC OBLIGATIONS WERE NOT DIFFICULT FOR THOSE WHO HAD ACCEPTED THE FAITH.

+SIALAM ADVOCATES ONLY PRACTICES WITHIN THE CAPABILITIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO PERFORM+, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE SPREAD OF ISLAM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WAS THE RESULT OF PROPAGATION OF THE ENTIRE MUSLIM COMMUNITY WHO HAD THE DUTY OF GUIDING HUMANITY TO DO GOOD AND AVOID EVIL.

--MORE 2243/AN

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+THIS DUTY IS NOT THE TASK OF ONLY THOSE PAID TO TEACH ISLAM BUT IS A MISSION INCUMBENT UPON ALL MUSLIMS.

+PEOPLE WHO EMBRACE THE FAITH ARE GENERALLY THOSE WHO RECOGNIZE THE SUPERIORITY AND GRANDEUR OF ISLAM AND WHO WILL THEREFORE PROPAGATE THE RELIGION+.

ISLAM, HE SAID, WAS NOT A DIFFICULT RELIGION TO PRACTISE BECAUSE ITS TEACHINGS WERE EASY TO FOLLOW.

PROBLEMS IN THE OBSERVANCE OF ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES WERE CAUSED ONLY BY THOSE WHO WANTED TO MAKE COMPULSORY WHAT WAS ONLY OBLIGATORY AND WHO THEREFORE MEASURED ISLAMIC PIETY BY SUCH ENDEAVOURS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THE RELIGIOUS FAITH OF MILLIONS OF MUSLIMS IN THE SOVIET UNION WOULD BE +WIPED OUT+ BY THE NEXT GENERATION.

THIS SITUATION SHOULD IMPRESS UPON ALL MUSLIMS THE FATAL EFFECT OF THE COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY ON ISLAM, HE ADDED.

--MORE 2330/AN

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HE SAID MUSLIMS HAD NEVER REJECTED THE GOOD ELEMENTS OF THE CULTURES OF OTHER PEOPLE AS LONG AS THEY DID NOT CONFLICT WITH ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES.

+AN ISLAMIC GOVERNMENT OR A GOVERNMENT CARRYING OUT EFFORTS TO INTRODUCE ISLAMIC VALUES IN ITS ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT TURN NON-MUSLIM INTO SECOND CLASS CITIZENS+, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER CONGRATULATED PERKIM FOR SETTING UP ITS OWN BUILDING, WHICH SHOULD SERVE AS A SYMBOL OF SUCCESS FOR THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY.

ALSO REPRESENT AT THE FUNCTION WERE THE PRESIDENT OF PERKIM, TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN THE CHIEF MINISTER OF SARAWAK, DATUK PATINGGI HAJI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD AND REPRESENTATIVES OF PERKIM IN THE COUNTRY, USIA IN SABAH AND BINA IN SARAWAK.

--BERNAMA 2333/AN