

PM-ISLAM  
BM

(P)

SIPITANG, (SABAH), OCT. 28 (BERNAMA) <sup>83</sup> -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR  
MOHAMAD WANTS MALAYSIA TO BE A MODEL ISLAMIC COUNTRY BECAUSE  
OF THE MODERATION IN ITS ADMINISTRATION BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES  
OF ISLAM.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WISHED TO HAVE AN  
ADMINISTRATION THAT WAS JUST, TOLERANT AND MODERATE WHICH OTHER  
COUNTRIES COULD EMULATE.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE POSITION OF ISLAM AND ITS FOLLOWERS  
COULD BE MAINTAINED AND THAT NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COULD BE  
CARRIED OUT WITH SMOOTHLY.

THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO INJECT ISLAMIC VALUES IN THE  
ADMINISTRATION DID NOT MEAN THAT OTHERS WOULD BE OPPRESSED, HE  
SAID WHEN OPENING THE HASHIM MOSQUE COSTING \$1.5 MILLION HERE.

THE MOSQUE IS THE CONTRIBUTION OF TWO BROTHERS, DATUK HAJI  
MOHAMAD YASSIN HAJI HASHIM, A FORMER STATE MINISTER, AND DATUK  
HAJI KASSIM HAJI HASHIM, A FORMER STATE ASSEMBLY SPEAKER, IN MEMORY  
OF THEIR FATHER HAJI HASHIM, A WELL-KNOWN IMAM IN THE DISTRICT.

-- MORE 1939/LK

ZCZC N189:

PM-ISLAM 2 SIPITANG

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ASSURED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO  
INTENTION OF FORCING PEOPLE OF OTHER RELIGIONS TO EMBRACE ISLAM  
IN ITS EFFORTS TO INJECT ISLAMIC VALUES BECAUSE SUCH A MOVE  
WOULD FRIGHTEN THEM OFF AND CAUSE THEM VIEW ISLAM AS BEING  
UNFAIR.

"THERE ARE CERTAIN GROUPS OF PEOPLE WHO FEEL THAT AFTER  
GAINING POWER IN THE COUNTRY, THE TIME HAD COME FOR THEM TO  
FORCE OTHER PEOPLE TO EMBRACE ISLAM. THIS WOULD DEFINITELY SCARE  
THEM OFF AND MAKE THEM STAY AWAY FROM ISLAM," HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT CHOSE AN  
ADMINISTRATION THAT WAS MODERATE THROUGH GOOD EXAMPLE TO ENSURE  
THAT THE COUNTRY WHICH ITS MULTI-RACIAL POPULATION WOULD BE  
PEACEFUL.

HE SAID THAT ISLAM DID NOT ALLOW ITS FOLLOWERS TO RAISE  
ANY DISTURBANCE AND AS SUCH ANY ONE HAVING POWER SHOULD NOT  
OPPRESS OTHER PEOPLE.

"IF THIS IS ALLOWED TO GO ON, ISLAM WOULD BE THE LOSER AS  
OTHER PEOPLE WOULD CONSIDER IT A RELIGION WHICH OPPRESSES THE  
WEAKER PEOPLE."

-- MORE 1942/LK

ZCZC N190:  
PM-ISLAM 3 SIPITANG

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY DID NOT WANT IT TO BE LIKE OTHER MUSLIM COUNTRIES WHERE MUSLIMS WERE IN THE MINORITY AND WERE WEAK AND UNABLE TO DEFEND THEIR OWN POSITION.

"WE MUST DEMONSTRATE TO THE WORLD THAT THIS COUNTRY'S ADMINISTRATION OBSERVES THE PRINCIPLES OF ISLAM WHERE MODERATION, TOLERANCE AND JUSTICE IS PRACTISED AND WE HAVE SUCCEEDED BECAUSE WE HAVE THIS ATTITUDE," HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE SLOGANS CLEAN, EFFICIENT AND TRUSTWORTHY AND LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE WERE VALUES IN LINE WITH THE TEACHING OF ISLAM AND EFFORTS THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ABSORB ISLAMIC VALUES.

HE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT RECENTLY THERE HAD BEEN DEVIATIONS FROM THE TEACHINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS OF ISLAM AND DISPUTES ON THE QUESTION OF RELIGION AND HE WAS AFRAID THAT THIS WOULD WEAKEN ISLAM.

HE CRITICISED CERTAIN GROUPS WHICH MEASURED THE +MUSLIMNESS+ OF A PERSON BY APPEARANCES AND WHICH FORCED OTHER PEOPLE TO EMBRACE ISLAM.

-- MORE 1945/LK

PM-ISLAM 4 SIPITANG

HE SAID THAT ISLAM WAS NOT BASED ON APPEARANCES BUT ON FAITH IN GOD AND WHETHER A PERSON WAS MORE OR LESS MUSLIM WAS SOMETHING KNOWN ONLY TO GOD.

AT THE GATHERING, A FORMER YANG DIPERTUA NEGERI, TUN PENGIRAN HAJI AHMAD RAFFELI, DONATED \$300,000 FOR THE MOSQUE AT MESAPOL WHILE A BUSINESSMAN, DATUK YEO KIM SENG DONATED \$250,000 FOR THE MOSQUE AT SINDUMIN.

THE PRIME MINISTER LATER ATTENDED FRIDAY PRAYERS AT THE NEW MOSQUE BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE SABAH-SARAWAK BORDER.

-- BERNAMA 1948/LK