

MAHATHIR-QURAN
BM

84 (P)
MELAKA, MALAYSIA (BERNAMA) -- (DATUKSERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT THAT MUSLIMS BECAME BACKWARD BECAUSE THEY DID NOT NEED THE CALL OF ISLAM TO CULTIVATE THE READING HABIT AND ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT LOVE FOR WRITING AND READING SHOULD BE NURTURED BECAUSE THE LACK OF IT COULD CAUSE THE DOWNFALL OF A COMMUNITY.

A PERSON WHO VALUED KNOWLEDGE WOULD NEVER TIRE OF LEARNING* HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE NATIONAL QURAN-READING COMPETITION AT THE KUBU STADIUM HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER THAT ISLAM DID NOT ASK ITS FOLLOWERS TO PERFORM RELIGIOUS RITES TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY HAD LITTLE TIME TO EARN A LIVING.

INDEED, MUSLIMS WERE EXHORTED BY THEIR RELIGION TO WORK HARD AND FOR HONEST GAINS.

MORE 2200/LK
ZCZC N158

MAHATHIR-QURAN 2 MELAKA

MUSLIMS WERE ALSO REQUIRED TO EQUIP THEMSELVES WITH KNOWLEDGE AND TO STRIVE TOWARDS SELF IMPROVEMENT, HE ADDED.

"THE LIFE AND COMFORT ON EARTH SHOULD BE REGARDED AS A BRIDGE TO ATTAIN HAPPINESS IN THE HEREAFTER, POVERTY BEING IN FACT ALMOST AGAINST ISLAM," HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION, ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE AND STRIVE AS EXHORTED BY THE QURAN, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT A PERSON OF LEARNING WAS USEFUL NOT ONLY TO HIMSELF BUT ALSO TO THE SOCIETY WHICH RESPECTED HIM.

HE URGED MUSLIMS TO COMPETE FOR KNOWLEDGE BECAUSE THE ABSENCE OF IT, HE SAID, WOULD THREATEN THE FUTURE OF A PEOPLE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HISTORY HAD SHOWN THAT NOTABLE PEOPLE IN THE HISTORY OF HUMAN CIVILISATION LIKE IBN FARABI, IBN TAIMIYAH AND IMAM GHAZALI WERE THOSE WITH EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE WHO STRIVED TO PUT TO GOOD USE WHAT THEY KNEW.

-- MORE 2203/LK

MAHATHIR-QURAN 3 MELAKA

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE FATE OF A PEOPLE DEPENDED ON THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES BECAUSE ALLAH WOULD NOT ALTER THEIR LOT UNLESS THEY THEMSELVES STRIVED TO DO SO.

DATUKSERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE FOR KNOWLEDGE'S SAKE WAS NOT IN LINE WITH ISLAM AS THE RELIGION URGED ITS FOLLOWERS TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE FOR BRINGING GOOD AND FOR SAFEGUARDING MUSLIMS.

HE SAID ISLAM PUT AS MUCH STOCK ON THE EFFORT TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE AS IT DID ON THE SUCCESS IN ACQUIRING THE KNOWLEDGE.

MORE 2230/AJ

ZCZC N164

MAHATHIR-QURAN 4 MELAKA

EARLIER, MELAKA CHIEF MINISTER DATUK ABDUL RAHIM THAMBY CHIK SAID THE GOLDEN AGE OF ISLAM SHOULD SERVE AS AN INSPIRATION FOR MUSLIMS TO PROGRESS.

TO FORGE AHEAD, MUSLIMS MUST TAKE STEPS FOR SELF-IMPROVEMENT.

DATUK ABDUL RAHIM SAID THE MUSLIMS WOULD CONTINUE TO REMAIN BACKWARD IF THEY WERE DISUNITED AND PLACED PERSONAL INTERESTS ABOVE THOSE OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

-- BERNAMA 2303/LK