

MAHATHIR-EXHIBITION

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84 (P)  
KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 21/ (BERNAMA) -- THE PRIME MINISTER TODAY CALLED ON THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY TO ELIMINATE WASTAGE OF FUNDS IN WARRING AMONG THEMSELVES AND DISCARD ARCHAIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND INSTEAD RALLY TO REVIVE THE GLORY OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION.

(DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID ALL ISLAMIC WEALTH SHOULD BE CHANNELLED TO REVITALIZING THE KNOWLEDGE, CAPABILITIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE UMMAH.

MUSLIMS HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TAKING THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE GENERATION IN THE PURSUIT OF THIS OBJECTIVE.

HE SAID THE RENASCENCE OF A NEW AND BRILLIANT ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION WAS NOT AN IMPOSSIBILITY BECAUSE THE ISLAMIC WORLD TODAY HAD INTELLECTUALS COMPRABLE WITH THOSE OF ITS PREVIOUS ERA OF SPLENDOUR.

HE WAS OPENING THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION ON ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM HERE.

THE EXHIBITION IS ORGANIZED JOINTLY BY THE BERITA HARI AN DAILY AND THE MUSEUM WITH THE COOPERATION OF MUSEUMS OF OTHER ISLAMIC COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE TOPKAPISARAY MUSEUM IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY. -- MORE  
MAHATHIR-EXHIBITION-2-KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE DECLINE OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO TWO FACTORS.

THE FIRST WAS THAT ISLAMIC LEADERS ADOPTING A FEUDAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT HAD BECOME SO SEDUCED BY MATERIAL COMFORT AND WEALTH THAT THEY HAD ABANDONED THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM.

THE SECOND FACTOR, ACCORDING TO HIM, WAS THE RISE OF AN ISLAMIC CLERGY WITH A NARROW INTERPRETATION OF ISLAM. THIS GROUP REJECTED AS SECULAR ALL KNOWLEDGE THAT HAD NO SPECIFIC RELEVANCE TO RELIGIOUS FAITH.

+ THESE FACTORS ARE STILL EXISTENT IN OUR AGE, THERE ARE LEADERS OF ISLAMIC COUNTRIES WHOSE OBSESSION WITH MATERIALISM HAD CAUSED THEM TO FORGET THE TEACHINGS OF THE AL-QURAN.

+ THERE ARE ALSO GROUPS WHO COULD PREVENT ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION FROM RE-CAPTURING ITS PAST GLORY, HE SAID. -- 50RE 1414/PA  
MAHATHIR-EXHIBITION-3-KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT ISLAMIC HAD NEVER CLOSED ITS DOOR TO KNOWLEDGE. ISLAM HAD, ON THE OTHER HAND, PROVIDED THE AVENUE CONDUCTIVE TO ITS FOLLOWERS ACQUIRING LEARNING AND USING THE KNOWLEDGE GAINED TO BUILD A CIVILIZATION OF SUPREME ATTAINMENT.

HE SAID THAT THE ARABS, WHOSE KNOWLEDGE WAS LIMITED TO THE USE OF BEASTS OF BURDEN COULD AFTER THE COMING OF ISLAM CROSS SEAS AND OCEANS WITH THE HELP OF CELESTIAL NAVIGATIONAL TECHNIQUES.

THEY DESIGNED AND USED THE COMPASS, MASTERED THE FIELDS OF ASTRONOMY, ARCHITECTURE, MEDICINE MINERAL EXPLOITATION, AND ALCHEMY, AND INVENTED NEW KNOWLEDGE SUCH AS ALGEBRA.

THE ACCUMULATED WISDOM OF THE HELLENIC WORLD AND OTHER CIVILIZATIONS WAS STUDIED, RESEARCHED AND BROADENED UNTIL EUROPEANS HAD TO GO TO THE ISLAMIC EMPIRE TO SEEK KNOWLEDGE.

HOWEVER, AFTER FLOURISHING FOR 800 YEARS, THE ISLAMIC EMPIRE WENT INTO DECLINE BECAUSE OF THE TWO FACTORS, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THE MUSLIM WORLD SHOULD PROVIDE FOR ITS INTELLECTUALS THE CLIMATE AND INCENTIVE FOR CARRYING OUT RESEARCH, -- MORE 1417/PA

**MAHATHIR-EXHIBITION-4-KUALA LUMPUR**

HE SAID MANY MUSLIM SCHOLARS HAD TO GO TO EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES WHERE FACILITIES FOR RESEARCH WERE READILY AVAILABLE.

HE REGRETTED THAT THEY HAD TO MIGRATE TO OTHER COUNTRIES TO SEEK KNOWLEDGE BECAUSE THEIR OWN COUNTRIES DID NOT APPRECIATE THEIR WORK AND PROVIDED ENCOURAGEMENT AND OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO CONDUCT RESEARCH.

+THE RESULTS OF THEIR LABOURS WILL SURELY FALL TO THEIR HOST COUNTRIES AND THIS COULD BE A BIG LOSS TO THE ISLAMIC WORLD,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER OBSERVED THERE WAS ALSO A CAMPAIGN AGAINST WHAT WAS PERCEIVED AS SECULAR KNOWLEDGE, DESPITE THE FACT THAT SOME AREAS OF THIS KNOWLEDGE WERE PIONEERED BY MUSLIMS THEMSELVES.

HE ALSO FOUND THAT ISLAMIC UNIVERSITIES WERE CONFINING THEIR AREAS OF STUDY TO ISLAMIC EDUCATION AND EITHER IGNORED OTHER DISCIPLINES OR GAVE THEM ONLY SCANT ATTENTION, UNLIKE THE PROFOUND STUDIES IN NON-ISLAMIC FIELDS CARRIED OUT BY ISLAMIC EXPERTS DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF ISLAM.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE NARROW IDEOLOGY PROPOUNDED BY SOME OF THE ISLAMIC CLERGY HAD LED TO A DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF INTELLECTUALS IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MATHEMATICS, -- MORE 1650/PANNNN

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**MAHATHIR-EXHIBITION-5-KUALA LUMPUR**

THIS INCREASINGLY DOGMATIC INTERPRETATION OF ISLAM HAD ALSO RESULTED IN ISLAM BEING CONFINED TO RESOLVING ONLY QUESTIONS OF SEX AND WORSHIP, HE ADDED.

ON THE EXHIBITION, HE SAID IT COULD BE CONSIDERED A SUCCESS IF IT MANAGED TO MOTIVATE THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY IN THIS COUNTRY, INTO TAKING THE PRELIMINARY STEPS, TOWARDS A REVIVAL OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION.

THE EXHIBITION GAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ALL TO WITNESS AND UNDERSTAND WHAT ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION WAS ALL ABOUT. IT WAS A SOURCE OF PRIDE FOR MUSLIMS, WHO SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE LULLED BY PAST GLORY AND FORGET THEIR TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

ALSO PRESENT WERE CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS MINISTER ANWAR IBRAHIM, DEPUTY MINISTERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ISLAMIC DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR LATER TOURED THE EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEUM AND THE NATIONAL ART GALLERY WHERE ISLAMIC PAINTINGS ARE BEING DISPLAYED.

AN EXHIBITION ON LOCAL ISLAMIC PERSONALITIES IS HELD AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES. --BERNAMA 1756/PA