

MAHATHIR-ECONOMY  
BM,

84

(P)

KUALALUMPUR, MAY 25 (BERNAMA) -- ~~(DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD)~~  
TODAY ASKED MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY WHETHER THEY REALLY WANT THEIR  
SHARE IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY;

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE QUESTION HAD TO BE POSED BECAUSE  
RECENTLY THE +HALAL-HARAM+ ASPECT OF THE NATIONAL UNIT TRUST (ASN)  
SCHEME, WHICH WAS SET UP IN THE INTEREST OF BUMIPUTERAS, MALAYS AND  
MUSLIMS, HAD BEEN RAISED BY GROUPS WITH VESTED INTEREST,

THROUGH ASN, HE SAID, MUSLIMS WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTROL 30 PER CENT  
OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY, THE MODERN ECONOMY, HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE 35TH UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT THE HILTON HERE,  
DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS PARTY PRESIDENT, REMINDED MUSLIMS  
THAT IF THEY WAITED UNTIL AN ISLAMIC SYSTEM TOOK CONTROL OF THE  
NATIONAL ECONOMY, THEN THE 30 PER CENT TARGET WOULD NOT BE ACHIEVED  
BY 1990.

+IT IS POSSIBLE THAT WE HAVE TO WAIT 100 YEARS OR 200 YEARS OR  
MORE. IF WE FAIL TO ACHIEVE THE 30 PER CENT BY 1990, WE WILL NOT BE  
ABLE TO EFFECTIVELY INFLUENCE THE ECONOMY, MORE SO TO EVOLVE AN  
ISLAMIC ECONOMIC SYSTEM+ HE SAID.

-- MORE 1202/LK

MAHATHIR A--ECONOMY 2 KUALALUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT THE WORLD ECONOMY IN THIS MODERN  
ERA WAS NOT EVOLVED AND DEVELOPED BY MUSLIMS AND, BECAUSE OF THIS THE,  
MODERN ECONOMY WAS BOUND TO HAVE CERTAIN FEATURES WHICH WERE AGAINST  
ISLAMIC TEACHINGS. IT HAD HOWEVER BEEN MIXED WITH CERTAIN OTHER  
METHODS AND ACTIVITIES WHICH COULD BE ACCEPTED BY ISLAM.

AT TIMES WHAT WAS AGAINST ISLAM COULD BE SEPARATED FROM WHAT WAS  
PERMITTED BUT ALWAYS SUCH SEPARATION COULD NOT BE MADE IF MUSLIMS  
THEMSELVES DELIBERATELY CHOSE TO FOLLOW WAYS WHICH WERE NOT IN LINE  
WITH ISLAM. HE SAID

SOMUCH POLLUTION WAS TAKING PLACE THAT THERE WERE MUSLIMS WHO  
WOULD NOT TAKE ANY ACTION WITHOUT INDIRECTLY AT LEAST INVOLVING THE  
+HALAL-HARAM+ QUESTION.

+CLOTHES WORN DURING PRAYERS, THE SHOPS OR AEROPLANE USED FOR GOING  
ON THE PILGRIMAGE, KURMA CONSUMED, DURING THE FASTING MONTH! MOREOVER  
THE TITHES WHICH ARE PAID ARE MORE OR LESS INVOLVED IN COMMERCIAL  
BANKING SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

ONLY RECITING THE KALIMAH SYAHADAT TWICE DID NOT INVOLVE THE BANK  
AND OTHER BUSINESS ACTIVITIES WERE HELD IN DOUBT BY PEOPLE WHO WISH  
TO BE KNOWN AS MUSLIM PURISTS WHOSE FAITH HAD NEVER BEEN TARNISHED. +

-- MORE 1206/LK

1010039

MAHATHIR-ECONOMY 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT IN THIS COUNTRY THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO CLAIMED THAT THEY CONDUCTED THEIR BUSINESS BASED ON ISLAMIC TEACHINGS AND IN VIEW OF THIS, THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE SUPPORTED BY ALL MUSLIMS.

NOT ONLY THAT BUT THERE WERE THOSE WHO SAY THAT MUSLIMS SHOULD NOT BUY THINGS WHICH WERE NOT SOLD BY MUSLIMS HE ADDED.

+SO WE FIND PEOPLE SELLING MEE ISLAM WHICH THEY HAD MADE. BUT THOUGH THE MEE HAD BEEN MADE BY MUSLIMS, THE FLOUR HAD BEEN BOUGHT FROM NON-MUSLIMS. IN FACT THE WHEAT HAD BEEN PLANTED, IMPORTED AND SOLD WITH FINANCE FROM NON-MUSLIM COMMERCIAL BANKS . +

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF GOODS BY MUSLIMS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY MUSLIMS BUT THEY SHOULD NOT USE ISLAM AS AN ADVERTISEMENT WHEN WHAT THEY CLAIM WAS NOT TRUE.

+SUCH AN ACTION HUMILIATES ISLAM AND MAKES IT A LAUGHING STOCK FOR OTHERS+ HE SAID .

HE STRESSED THAT THERE WERE PROHIBITIONS IN ISLAM ON MATTERS CONCERNING FOOD AND DRINKS, CLOTHES, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES WHICH COULD EASILY BE OBSERVED.

-- MORE 1211/LK

ZCZC 0040

MAHATHIR-ECONOMY 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID CERTAIN MUSLIMS HOWEVER UNDER THE MASK OF ISLAM WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH SUCH PROHIBITIONS AND THEY THEMSELVES SEARCH AND INVENT ALL TYPES OF PROHIBITIONS EVEN TO THE EXTENT OF MAKING THEIR OWN DEFINITIONS AND ESTIMATIONS.

AT THE SAME TIME WHAT WAS OPTIONAL THEY MADE IT COMPULSORY AND WHAT WAS COMPULSORY TOOK A BACKSTAGE AND MATTERS WHICH WERE NOT PROHIBITED WERE MADE +HARAM+.

+IT IS AN IRONY THAT WHAT WAS OBLIGATORY WAS SET ASIDE BY THESE PEOPLE. THEY DO NOT TAKE SERIOUSLY THE QUESTION OF MUSLIM UNITY, MORE SO THE QUESTION OF BROTHERHOOD IN ISLAM.+

+THEY WILL NOT HESITATE TO TELL LIES ABOUT RELIGION, TERM OTHER MUSLIMS AS INFIDELS, UNDERMINE OTHERS,, TAKE QUOTATIONS FROM THE HOLY QURAN, WHICH WERE APPROPRIATE FOR, THEIR CLAIMS AND COMMIT OTHER ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE PROHIBITED BY ISLAM.

+THEY SELL CHEAPLY THE QUOTATIONS FROM THE HOLY QURAN+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE MODERN ECONOMIC SYSTEM AS EVOLVED AND DEVELOPED BY NON-MUSLIMS HAD BECOME SO EFFECTIVE SO MUCH SO THAT THE ENTIRE WORLD HAD COME TO USE IT AND THE MUSLIMS THEMSELVES. CANNOT AVOID USING THE SYSTEM.

-- MORE 1216/LK

MAHATHIR-ECONOMY 5 KUALA LUMPUR

IF MUSLIMS DID NOT AVOID THE SYSTEM UNTIL SUCH TIME THE ISLAMIC SYSTEM WAS EVOLVED, THEY CLAIM THEY WOULD BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE PROMOTERS OF THE PRESENT WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND IF THIS TOOK PLACE THE ISLAMIC ECONOMIC SYSTEM WOULD NOT DEVELOP AND PROGRESS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MUSLIMS MUST KNOW HOW TO USE THE SYSTEM OF OTHERS IF THEY WANTED TO DEVELOP THE ISLAMIC ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY WERE STILL IN A FRAGILE POSITION BECAUSE OF THEIR WEAKNESS IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD AND IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY A NUMBER OF ACTIONS WERE PERMITTED IN ISLAM.

PORK CAN BE EATEN IF THIS WILL ONLY SAVE THE LIFE OF A MUSLIM. THERE IS A LEADER OF A POLITICAL PARTY WHO RECENTLY SAID INTEREST IS ALLOWED IN AN EMERGENCY, + HE SAID.

+THEY KNOW ISLAMIC TEACHINGS BUT THEY USE THIS EXCEPTION FOR THEIR POLITICAL INTEREST FOR THEY DO NOT ACCEPT THE ISLAMIC BANK AND NOT BECAUSE OF EMERGENCY, +

HE REMINDED MUSLIMS THAT DUE TO THE ROLE PLAYED BY BODIES SUCH AS THE ASN, PERNAS AND THE VARIOUS STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS THEY WERE ABLE TO CONTROL 18 PER CENT OF THE ECONOMY.

-- MORE 1221/LK

ZCZC ND42

MAHATHIR-ECONOMY 6 KUALA LUMPUR

+IF SUCH BODIES ARE BANNED WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO, GET EVEN ONE PER CENT OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY, MORE SO IF THE ISLAMIC BANK IS NOT ACCEPTED.

+IF THIS HAPPENS MUSLIMS WILL BE COMPLETELY PARALYSED. FAR FROM, SAYING EMERGENCY THEY WILL SINK IN HUMILIATION AND WOULD'NT THAT THREATEN THEIR FAITH?+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS UP TO THE MUSLIMS THEMSELVES TO CHOOSE WHETHER THEY WANTED TO HELP THEMSELVES OR BECOME HYPOCRITES WHO ONLY WISHED TO ACT BECAUSE OF PARTY POLITICS AND PRETEND TO BE MEN OF FAITH.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT UMNO AND ITS MEMBERS WOULD HOLD, STRONGLY TO ISLAM AND BRING PROGRESS TO THE PEOPLE IN AN ISLAMIC WAY.

+THE FORM OF ISLAM IS NOT FOR US. FOR US SUBSTANCE AND EXPERIENCE ARE MORE IMPORTANT\* HE STRESSED.

THE PRIME MINISTER GAVE A WARNING THAT ANYONE WHO ATTEMPTED TO MAKE THE ASN A FAILURE WERE TRAITORS WORKING AGAINST THE DEVELOPMENT OF MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY AND THEY WOULD BE OPPOSED TO THE END.

-- BERNAMA 1224/LK