

UMNO - ISLAM
BM

84 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 27 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD)
TOLD ALL UMNO MEMBERS TO PROMOTE THE TRUE ISLAMIC SPIRIT
TO COUNTER THE DEVIATIONIST PROPAGATION OF PAS.

THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, SAID TODAY THAT
UNLESS THEY DID THIS, MANY MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY WOULD FALL PREY
TO PAS' DEVIATIONIST PROPAGANDA.

HE URGED UMNO MEMBERS TO BE CAREFUL AND SERIOUS WHEN DISCUSSING
OR MAKING COMMENTS ABOUT RELIGIOUS MATTERS.

ANSWERING POINTS RAISED DURING AT THE 35TH UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HERE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT BEFORE MAKING STATEMENTS
ABOUT ISLAM, THEY MUST SEARCH THEIR HEART AND DETERMINE WHETHER THEY
WERE ACTING OUT OF ARROGANCE, WITH THE INTENTION OF DRAWING ATTENTION
TO THEMSELVES OR WHETHER THEY WERE TRULY TRYING TO SERVE THE
INTERESTS OF ISLAM.

+ASK YOURSELF FIRST WHETHER WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS PURELY BECAUSE
OF ISLAM OR BECAUSE YOU WANT TO SHOW HOW ISLAMIC YOU ARE,+
HE SAID. -- MORE 0059/MB

UMNO - ISLAM 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID SUCH SELF-PROMOTING ACTIONS WERE CONTRARY TO THE TEACHINGS
OF ISLAM. +ISLAM IS NOT FOR SHOW. ISLAM IS A RELIGION THAT SAVES OUR
IMMORTAL SOUL.+

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID ISLAM WAS BEST SUITED TO THE
HUMAN SPIRIT AND CHARACTER.

ISLAM TOOK COGNIZANCE OF THE WEAKNESSES OF HUMANS AND ACCOMMODATED
THEM. AN EXAMPLE WAS THE PROVISION ALLOWING MUSLIM MEN TO HAVE UP
TO FOUR WIVES AS LONG AS THIS WAS NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF
SATISFYING BASE SEXUAL APPETITE.

HE SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY MUSLIMS WERE NOT HAPPY WITH
SUCH FLEXIBILITY AND WANTED ISLAM TO BE A DRACONIAN RELIGION.

THIS ATTITUDE, AND NOT ISLAMIC LAWS THEMSELVES, WAS RESPONSIBLE
FOR MAKING ISLAM TO BE SO BURDENSOME. -- MORE 0038/MB

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UMNO - ISLAM 3 KUALA LUMPUR

+THIS MISCONCEPTION OF ISLAM IS OUR OWN FAULT,+ HE ADDED.

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT THE ASSIMILATION OF
ISLAMIC VALUES WAS NOT AN EASY TASK. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT
THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONFINING THE EFFORT TO THE ADMINISTRATION.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER UNDERTOOK TO EXTEND THE EFFORT TO COVER
THE ENTIRE POPULATION.

+THIS WILL BE AN ASPIRATION IMPOSSIBLE FOR IT TO ACHIEVE, LIKE
TRYING TO EMBRACE A MOUNTAIN,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS ONLY SETTING THE STAGE CONDUCIVE TO THE
REALIZATION THIS ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE AND OVERCOMING THE PROBLEMS
POPPING UP ONE DAY AT A TIME. -- BERNAMA