

BE823 AAE  
MAHATHIR-PERKIM  
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KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 14 (BERNAMA) -- THE MALAYSIAN ISLAMIC WELFARE ORGANIZATION (PERKIM) MUST LOOK FOR A NEW APPROACH IN MOBILIZING MUSLIMS TO SPREAD ISLAM, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THAT AFTER 25 YEARS OF MISSIONARY WORK, PERKIM SHOULD NOW CHANGE ITS APPROACH FROM JUST CONVERTING NON-MUSLIMS.

+ PROPAGATING ISLAM AMONG NON-MUSLIMS IS NOT ONLY ONE OF ALLAH'S COMMANDS; IT ALSO HAS SIGNIFICANT MEANING TO THE OBJECTIVE OF CREATING A HARMONIOUS AND UNITED MALAYSIA, + HE SAID IN A MESSAGE TO MARK PERKIM'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY ON MONDAY.

HE SAID THAT PREJUDICES HARBOURED BY NON-MUSLIMS ABOUT ISLAM WOULD BE ABOLISHED IF THE RELIGION WAS EXPLAINED TO THEM IN AN ENLIGHTENED MANNER.

THE GOVERNMENT ON ITS PART WAS IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE OF ISLAMIC VALUES AND CIVILIZATION TO NON-MUSLIM STUDENTS AT INSTITUTES OF HIGHER LEARNING.

MEANWHILE, PERKIM PRESIDENT TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN SAID THE ORGANIZATION WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN ITS MISSIONARY WORK IF ITS FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER NEEDS WERE MET.

HE SAID PERKIM HAD SUCCEEDED IN CONVERTING A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SINCE ITS INCEPTION.

THE ORGANIZATION, HE SAID, STRESSED ACTS OF CHARITY IN ITS MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES.

PERKIM WILL HOLD A SEMINAR FROM SATURDAY TO MONDAY AS PART OF ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. -- BERNAMA  
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