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ALOR SETAR, JUNE 16 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, HAS DESCRIBED AS UNTRUE THE CLAIM THAT THE SPIRIT OF NATIONALISM IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE ISLAMIC POLICY.

THE PRIME MINISTER ASSERTED THAT THE NATIONALISM PROPAGATED BY LEADERS IN MALAYSIA AND THROUGHOUT THE ISLAMIC WORLD TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION ISLAMIC INTERESTS.

HE REGRETTED THE ACTION OF A GROUP OF MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY DISTRIBUTING HARI RAYA CARDS WITH THE MESSAGE +THE SPIRIT OF NATIONALISM IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH ISLAMIC POLICY.+ (+SEMANGAT KEBANGSAAN TIDAK SESUAI DENGAN DASAR ISLAM+).

SPEAKING TO 1,000 SETTLERS AT A +NUZUL QURAN+ FUNCTION AT FELDA BUKIT TANGGA, 45 KM FROM HERE, YESTERDAY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS SAD TO SEE SUCH HARI RAYA CARDS DISTRIBUTED AMONG MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY.

HISTORY, HE SAID, HAD SHOWN THAT THE WAVE OF NATIONALISM UNLEASHED BY LEADERS FIGHTING FOR INDEPENDENCE OF THE COUNTRY HAD DEFENDED THE SOVEREIGNTY OF ISLAM. -- MORE
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+THOSE WHO THINK THAT THE SPIRIT OF NATIONALISM IS CONTRARY TO THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM ARE WRONG AND THEREFORE, ARE NOT ADHERING TO THE TRUE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CITED AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE SPIRIT OF NATIONALISM BEING HARNESSSED TO THE CAUSE OF ISLAM, THE STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN AGAINST THE BARBRAK KARMAL REGIME PROPPED UP BY THE SOVIET UNION

HE ALSO SAID MUSLIMS SHOULD ACCEPT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AS BOTH WERE NOT CONTRARY TO ISLAM.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SHOULD BE USED TO ENHANCE THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE AND NOT TO DESTROY HUMANS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SPOKE OF THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A MUSLIM IN SOUTHERN THAILAND WHO SUCCEEDED IN PRODUCING A COMPUTER ENABLING SYSTEMATIC STUDY OF THE QURAN AND UNDERSTANDING OF IT IN THREE LANGUAGES.

THIS ACHIEVEMENT SHOULD BE ACCLAIMED BY MUSLIMS IN THEIR QUEST FOR PROGRESS, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, MENTERI BESAR DATUK PADUKA HAJI OSMAN AROFF AND STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR HAJI HANAFFI RAMLI.

THEY LATER BROKE FAST AND ATTENDED MAGHRIB PRAYERS WITH THE SETTLERS.

-- BERNAMA

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