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MAHATHIR-RELIGION
BM

BUTTERWORTH, AUG 3 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CRITICISED PEOPLE TRYING TO SABOTAGE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF EDUCATION THAT SUITS THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS.

HE SAID THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE WERE INTENT ON FOILING GOVERNMENT EFFORTS FOR REASONS OF THEIR OWN, WHICH WERE TO KEEP THE MUSLIMS BACKWARD.

OPENING THE SEKOLAH MENENGAH AGAMA AL-IRSYAD IN POKOK SENJA NEAR HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY WAS BASED ON RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS THAT GAVE AVENUES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS.

HE SAID THE GROUP ALWAYS PROMOTED ITS CAUSE BY SAYING THAT THE GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTED A SYSTEM OF EDUCATION THAT WAS CONTRARY TO ISLAMIC TEACHINGS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES ENCOMPASSED ALL SPHERES OF KNOWLEDGE THAT COULD BE UTILISED NOT ONLY IN THIS WORLD BUT ALSO IN THE HEREAFTER. -- MORE
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HE SAID THE CLAIM THAT THE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION PRACTISED BY THE GOVERNMENT WAS A +KAFIR+ (INFIDEL) SYSTEM SHOULD BE DISREGARDED AS THE MOTIVE FOR THE CLAIM WAS TO FOIL GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO INJECT ISLAMIC VALUES INTO THE ADMINISTRATION.

HE ALSO SAID THE GROUP WAS PREPARED TO GO AS FAR AS TO DESTROY UNITY AMONG MUSLIMS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REMINDED THE PEOPLE TO DISCARD IDEOLOGIES AND BELIEFS THAT WERE UNACCEPTED BY SOCIETY AND ISLAM SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE THINKING OF SCHOOLCHILDREN.

DOING SOMETHING WITH ONLY ONE'S OWN INTEREST IN MIND COULD BRING DESTRUCTION, AS HAD HAPPENED IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN WEST ASIA, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER HOPED THAT PARENTS AND TEACHERS WOULD ALWAYS REGARD THE SCHOOL AS A PLACE FOR THE WELFARE OF THE NATION AND RELIGION AND ELIMINATE ALL FORMS OF IDEOLOGY THAT COULD BRING ABOUT DESTRUCTION. -- MORE
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PEOPLE MUST REMEMBER THAT THIS GROUP WAS PREPARED TO GET MUSLIMS TO RENOUNCE THE GENUINE TEACHINGS OF THE RELIGION AND TO UPHOLD THAT WHICH WAS FALSE.

HE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE GROUP BE PREVENTED FROM POISONING THE MINDS OF SCHOOLCHILDREN.

+A MISTAKE WILL RESULT IN THE CREATION OF STUDENTS AND ADMINISTRATORS OF THE NATION WHO WILL BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS,+ HE SAID.

ABOUT 10,000 PEOPLE WERE PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY. THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS WIFE, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, WERE ACCORDED A RED CARPET WELCOME COMPLETE WITH BUNGA MANGGAR BEARERS AND A KOMPANG TROUPE.

CHIEF MINISTER DR LIM CHONG EU AND OTHER VIPS WERE ALSO PRESENT.

-- BERNAMA
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