

EMBARGO: FOR USE AFTER 9.30 PM TODAY, SEPT 15

KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 15 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT PLACES IMPORTANCE ON CAREFUL PLANNING BEFORE IMPLEMENTING ANY PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ISLAM IN THE COUNTRY, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

PROJECTS SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY, THE ISLAMIC BANK AND THE SYARIKAT TAKAFUL (ISLAMIC INSURANCE) WERE IMPLEMENTED AFTER CAREFUL PLANNING, HE SAID IN A SPEECH BROADCAST OVER RADIO AND TV MALAYSIA IN CONJUNCTION WITH AWAL MUHARAM TOMORROW.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT TALK ABOUT PROJECTS ASSOCIATED WITH ISLAM MERELY TO DRAW THE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

PLANNING ALONG THE LINES OF ISLAM WERE ASSIMILATED INTO THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND VARIOUS OTHER PROGRAMMES, HE SAID.

+IF IMPORTANCE IS NOT GIVEN TO PLANNING, WE MAY ACT IN HASTE TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAMMES THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH ISLAM AND EVENTUALLY THEY MAY FAIL,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-ISLAM 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PLANNING SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ABILITIES AND WEAKNESSES AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROGRAMME MUST NOT BE INFLUENCED BY THE ARROGANCE OF POWER AND EMOTIONS.

+CAREFUL PLANNING IS VERY NECESSARY IF A PROGRAMME IS TO ACHIEVE ITS DESIRED OBJECTIVE AND A SLIP, CAUSED PROBABLY BY THE INFLUENCE OF EMOTIONS, CAN BRING DISASTROUS RESULTS,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE INJECTION OF ISLAMIC VALUES INTO THE ADMINISTRATION WAS BEING DONE AFTER CAREFUL PLANNING, WITH THE INITIAL STAGE BEING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE VALUES INTO THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION.

THE ISLAMIC VALUES BEING INJECTED INTO THE ADMINISTRATION WERE UNIVERSAL IN CHARACTER BECAUSE THEY COULD BE EASILY UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED BY THE COUNTRY'S COSMOPOLITAN POPULATION, HE SAID.

THESE VALUES WOULD ENSURE THE CREATION OF A MALAYSIAN SOCIETY THAT WAS DISCIPLINED, OF GOOD MORAL BEHAVIOUR AND CIVILISED, HE ADDED. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-ISLAM 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY, APART FROM PRACTISING THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE RELIGION, SHOULD STRIVE WITH DETERMINATION IN EVERY SPHERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER REMINDED THEM TO ENSURE THAT THEIR EFFORTS TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE POSITION OF MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY.

HE DREW ATTENTION TO THE +HIJRAH+ (FLIGHT) OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD FROM MEKAH TO MADINAH AND SAID THE JOURNEY HELD SIGNIFICANCE FOR MUSLIMS.

+HIJRAH DOES NOT MERELY MEAN THE MOVEMENT FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER BUT THE DISCARDING OF SOMETHING THAT CAN BRING UNDESIRABLE RESULTS AND ACHIEVING SUCCESS,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT +HIJRAH+ ALSO MEANT PLANNING BY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ONE'S WEAKNESSES AND NOT BEING STUBBORN UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF EMOTIONS. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-ISLAM 4 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

IT WAS AN EDUCATION FOR MUSLIMS, SAFEGUARDING THEM AND BRINGING THEM SUCCESS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE +HIJRAH+ SHOWED THAT PROPHET MUHAMMAD, DESPITE THE PROTECTION GIVEN BY ALLAH, HAD TO BE DETERMINED IN HIS EFFORTS TO PROPAGATE ISLAM THEN.

THAT SHOULD SERVE AS A GUIDE AND EDUCATION FOR MUSLIMS OF TODAY, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA

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