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MAHATHIR
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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 16 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR
MOHAMAD TODAY WARNED THE MUSLIMS OF THE DANGER OF FIGHTING AMONG
THEMSELVES IN THEIR EAGERNESS TO ACCUSE ANY GOVERNMENT OF BEING
UNISLAMIC.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MUSLIMS SHOULD NOT CLING TO THEIR
PARTICULAR DEFINITION OF AN ISLAMIC GOVERNMENT TO THE EXTENT OF
MAKING ENEMIES OF THEIR FELLOW MUSLIMS WHO DID NOT AGREE WITH THEM.

+IF WE DO SO THERE WILL BE CONFLICT, EVEN WAR, AMONG OURSELVES,+
HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE ISLAMIC CENTRE HERE.

MALDIVES PRESIDENT MAUMOON ABDUL GAYOOM WAS A SPECIAL GUEST AT
THE OPENING CEREMONY. ALSO PRESENT WERE AL-AZHAR UNIVERSITY SHEIKH
ENCIK ALI GAD ALHAQ, FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUN HUSSEIN ONN, MENTERIS
BESAR AND CHIEF MINISTERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE DEFINITION OF AN ISLAMIC
GOVERNMENT VARIED AND NO ONE COULD SAY THAT ONLY HIS DEFINITION WAS
THE ACCURATE ONE.

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1410MST 16 09 85

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THE PRIME MINISTER CALLED ON THE MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY NOT TO
BE EASILY MISLED BY A LOVE FOR MATERIALISTIC THINGS TO THE EXTENT OF
FORGETTING THEIR TIES IN THE ISLAMIC BROTHERHOOD.

HE SAID ISLAM, BESIDES WANTING ITS FOLLOWERS TO UNITE AND PRAY
FOR THE HEREAFTER, ALSO DEMANDED THAT THEY CONSOLIDATE THEIR
POSITION IN THE WORLD.

HE SAID THE MUSLIMS NOW NOT ONLY HAD MATERIAL WEAKNESS IN
CONSOLIDATING THEIR POSITION BUT ALSO WEAKNESS IN SELF-RESILIENCE.

THE MOST IMPORTANT STRATEGY IN CONSOLIDATING THEIR POSITION IN
THE COUNTRY WAS BY STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY, ACQUIRING KNOWLEDGE
AND BUILDING UP ABILITY FOR SELF-DEVELOPMENT AND RESILIENCE TO
PHYSICAL THREATS AND INFLUENCE OF NEGATIVE IDEOLOGY, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE MUSLIMS IN THE DAYS OF GLORY OF
ISLAM WERE MORE PROGRESSIVE THAN THE OTHER RACES BECAUSE THEY HAD
SUCCEEDED IN FULFILLING THE DEMANDS OF ISLAM THAT THEY CONSOLIDATE
THEIR POSITION IN THE WORLD AND HOLD TRUE TO THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM.

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MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THE MUSLIMS DURING THOSE DAYS DISCHARGED THEIR GREAT RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PEOPLE AND THE WORLD BY BRINGING PROSPERITY TO THE WORLD AND HAPPINESS TO THE PEOPLE THROUGH THE ACQUISITION OF HIGH KNOWLEDGE.

HE SAID THE WEAKNESS OF THE MUSLIMS NOW WAS THE RESULT OF THE NARROW THINKING THAT CONTROLLED THEM AFTER THE DAYS OF GLORY THAT KNOWLEDGE NOT BASED ON RELIGION WAS NOT IMPORTANT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT OUT OF FRUSTRATION OVER THEIR WEAKNESS MANY MUSLIMS ADOPTED THE ATTITUDE THAT WORKING FOR PROSPERITY OF THE PEOPLE AND NATION WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE DEMANDS OF ISLAM.

HE WARNED THAT SUCH AN ATTITUDE WHICH HE SAID WEAKENED THE MUSLIMS WAS STILL PREVALENT AMONG THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY IN THE COUNTRY.

HE WAS THANKFUL THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WERE CERTAIN QUARTERS OPPOSING, THERE WAS NOW A NEW AWARENESS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM WHICH STRESSED EQUALLY ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND OTHER FORMS OF KNOWLEDGE THAT COULD GIVE THE MUSLIMS STRENGTH IN FACING THE CHALLENGES OF THE MODERN WORLD. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO UPGRADE THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM IN THE ASPECT OF CREATING AWARENESS OF THE RELIGION HAD NEARLY ACHIEVED ITS GOAL AND THE MUSLIMS HAD BENEFITED GREATLY FROM IT.

MANY MUSLIMS WERE NOW MORE COMMITTED TO ISLAM AND WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT ISLAM AS THE FOUNDATION OF LIFE AND DEATH WHILE THE NON-MUSLIMS WERE NO LONGER SUSPICIOUS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S MOVE TO INJECT ISLAMIC VALUES INTO THE ADMINISTRATION, HE SAID.

THE NON-MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY ALSO NOW UNDERSTOOD MORE ABOUT THE ISLAMIC VIEWS ON SOCIAL ISSUES -D-\$AND HENCE NO LONGER OPPOSED BUT GAVE THEIR SUPPORT INSTEAD, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, ACCOMPANIED BY DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, ALSO OPENED THE ISLAMIC EXHIBITION HALL AT THE CENTRE AND VIEWED THE EXHIBITS. -- BERNAMA
1516MST 16 09 85