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ALOR SETAR, MARCH 1 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY HIT OUT AT A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE, INCLUDING SETTLERS, WHO ARE NOT GRATEFUL FOR THE BENEFITS THEY ENJOY THROUGH FROM GOVERNMENT PROJECTS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT SUCH PEOPLE COULD BE COMPARED TO THOSE WHO BIT THE HANDS THAT FED THEM.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR A MOSQUE AT THE SUNGAI TIANG FELDA SCHEME, 43 KM FROM HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THEIR ATTITUDE WAS AGAINST ISLAMIC TEACHING.

HE REGRETTED THAT SUCH PEOPLE WERE EASILY INFLUENCED BY OTHERS WHO WERE ONLY GOOD AT TALKING ABOUT ISLAMIC VALUES BUT PRACTISED OTHERWISE.

HE SAID THAT CERTAIN GROUPS WERE PREPARED TO USE MOSQUES TO HOLD TALKS AIMED AT INSTIGATING MUSLIMS TO HAVE BAD VALUES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MOSQUES SHOULD BE USED TO UNITE MUSLIMS AND NOT AS VENUES TO SOW SEEDS OF ENMITY.

HE DESCRIBED THOSE WHO USED MOSQUES TO CREATE ENMITY AMONG MUSLIMS AS TRAITORS TO THE TEACHING OF ISLAM.

HE SAID ISLAM DID NOT TEACH ITS FOLLOWERS TO BE DISUNITED, PRAY SEPARATELY AND FORM FACTIONS, ESPECIALLY IN A CONGREGATION OR IN A MOSQUE.

+HOWEVER, THERE ARE CERTAIN QUARTERS WHO DO THIS AND CREATE INCIDENTS WHICH ARE AGAINST THE TEACHING OF ISLAM+

+THOUGH A MUSLIM MAY HAVE A DIFFERENT IDEOLOGY, FROM THE ASPECT OF THE TEACHING OF ISLAM ALL ITS FOLLOWERS ARE THE SAME,+ HE SAID.

HE URGED MUSLIMS TO USE MOSQUES TO STRENGTHEN THEIR UNITY AND BROTHERHOOD AND NOT TO USE SUCH PLACES TO CREATE CONFLICT AND ENMITY.

+THE STRENGTH OF THE ISLAMIC BROTHERHOOD BEGINS IN THE MOSQUE AND THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO SEE MUSLIMS IN THIS COUNTRY REMAIN UNITED THROUGH THE MOSQUES.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO URGED MUSLIMS TO HELP MAINTAIN THE CLEANLINESS OF MOSQUES, ADDING THAT THIS WAS EXHORTED BY ISLAM.

PRESENT WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH, KEDAH MENTERI BESAR DATUK PADUKA HAJI OSMAN AROFF AND LAND AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DATUK SERI ADIB ADAM.-- BERNAMA

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