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ALOR SETAR, DEC 11 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS CALLED ON RELIGIOUS TEACHERS TO PROMOTE MODERATION IN THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY SO AS TO CHECK EXTREMISM.

HE SAYS THE TEACHERS CAN SHAPE THE THINKING OF MUSLIMS AS WELL AS LEAD THE PROGRESS OF ISLAM.

+APART FROM THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS, THEY ALSO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN OTHER FIELDS,+ HE ADDS IN A SOUVENIR PROGRAMME IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WEST MALAYSIA RELIGIOUS TEACHERS UNION.

THE MEETING, TO BEGIN AT BANGUNAN TUNKU HERE FRIDAY, WILL BE OPENED BY DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAYS THE GOVERNMENT IS HAPPY WITH THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY RELIGIOUS TEACHERS, AND HOPES THEY WILL HELP TO CULTIVATE MODERATE VALUES AS ADVOCATED BY ISLAM. -- MORE

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HE SAYS THESE MODERATE VALUES WILL PREVENT EXTREMISM FROM TAKING ROOT AMONG MUSLIMS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAYS RELIGIOUS TEACHERS CAN HELP THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS EFFORTS TO INJECT ISLAMIC VALUES IN VARIOUS FIELDS.

HE BELIEVES THEIR EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE WILL ENABLE THEM TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE GREATER DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY.

-- BERNAMA

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