

D537

B E353 AAE
MAHATHIR-ISLAM

PETALING JAYA, NOV 8 (BERNAMA) -- A TRUE ISLAMIC RESURGENCE
COULD ONLY TAKE PLACE IF MUSLIMS RETURN TO THE TRUE TEACHINGS OF
ISLAM, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THERE COULD NOT BE ANY REAL RESURGENCE AND PERMANENCY WITHOUT
INTELLECTUAL BASE, A SOLID FOUNDATION OF CONTEMPORARY IDEAS AND
ANALYSIS DERIVED FROM THE PRIMARY SOURCES OF ISLAM -- THE QURAN AND
THE SUNNAH, HE ADDED.

OPENING THE FOURTH REGIONAL ISLAMIC DAKWAH COUNCIL OF SOUTHEAST
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (RISEAP) GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE, THE PRIME
MINISTER SAID IN PLANNING FOR ISLAMIC RESURGENCE, INTELLECTUAL
STRUGGLE (IJTIHAD) MUST GO HAND IN HAND WITH +JIHAD+ IN SPECIFIC
AREAS.

THE SOLUTIONS TO THE CONTEMPORARY AND FUTURE PROBLEMS OF MUSLIM
SOCIETIES MUST EMERGE FROM WITHIN THE UNIFIED, YET DIVERSE,
INTELLECTUAL HERITAGE OF ISLAM, HE SAID.

+WE (MUSLIMS) MUST BE WILLING TO BORROW IDEAS WHICH ARE NOT
CONTRARY TO OUR FAITH AND TO MODIFY THEM AS MUCH AS WE MUST DEVISE
NEW IDEAS TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF OUR TIMES.+ -- MORE

1435MST 08 11 86

D539

B E354 AAE
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 2 PETALING JAYA

HE SAID THE QURAN AND SUNNAH SHOULD BE THE MUSLIMS' GUIDE BUT
THEY (THE MUSLIMS) COULD NOT SOLVE PRESENT-DAY PROBLEMS BY
RETREATING INTO THE PAST.

THE ATTEMPT BY MISGUIDED MUSLIMS TO RETURN TO WHAT THEY TERMED
ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM HAD NEITHER BEEN SUCCESSFUL NOR HAD IT HELPED
TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF MODERN-DAY LIFE, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WAS REALLY NO TRUE ISLAMIC
RESURGENCE PRESENTLY, ADDING THAT IF THERE WAS, THE MUSLIMS WOULD BE
DOMINANT IN THE MODERN WORLD.

+INSTEAD WE ARE BEING BATTERED AND BRUISED NOT ONLY BY ATTACKS
BY PEOPLE ANTAGONISTIC TOWARDS US, BUT BY THE FIGHTING AMONG
OURSELVES.+

HE ALSO SAID THAT ISLAM PRESENTLY WAS NOT GLORIOUS AS IT WAS IN
THE PAST, SINCE MUSLIMS HAD FORSAKEN THE TRUE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM. --
MORE

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0541

B E355 AAE
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 3 PETALING JAYA

+WE HAVE CHANGED THE VALUES THAT ISLAM TEACHES US AND WE DENY MANY OF THE MESSAGES IN THE QURAN.

+SOME EVEN GO SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT CERTAIN PARTS OF THE QURAN CAN NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED BECAUSE THESE DO NOT FIT IN WITH THE INTERPRETATIONS THAT ARE CURRENTLY FAVOURED,+ HE SAID.

THUS THEY SAID THE PASSAGE WHICH PERMITTED OTHERS THEIR FAITH AND THE MUSLIMS THEIRS, WAS NO LONGER VALID BECAUSE THEY WANTED ISLAM TO BE RIGID AND INTOLERANT OF OTHERS AND THEIR RIGHTS, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GLORY OF ISLAM COULD BE RESTORED AND A RESURGENCE COULD TAKE PLACE IF LEARNED MUSLIMS FROM ALL DISCIPLINES GAVE THEIR THOUGHTS TO THE CORRECT INTERPRETATIONS OF ISLAM.

THE REALITY OF LIFE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY MUST BE GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION, AND +WE MUST BE PREPARED TO ADMIT THAT WE MIGHT BE WRONG IN OUR PRESENT INTERPRETATIONS AND TO CORRECT THEM+, HE STRESSED. -- MORE

1441MST 08 11 86

0543

B E356 AAE
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 4 PETALING JAYA

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY TO FURTHER SPREAD THE WORD OF ISLAM.

+WE CANNOT AFFORD THE KIND OF NEGATIVISM WHICH FOR A LONG TIME REJECTED ALL KINDS OF IMAGES AS AGAINST ISLAMIC TEACHINGS, ONLY TO BE FORCED IN THE END TO MODIFY OUR VIEWS IN THE FACE OF THE REALITIES AROUND US,+ HE SAID.

THE MUSLIMS SHOULD REJECT THEM ONLY IF THEY WERE COMPLETELY CONTRARY TO ISLAM, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT MISGUIDED FANATICISM WHICH OFTEN DIVIDED AND DESTROYED MUSLIM MAJORITIES SHOULD BE REPLACED BY PRACTICAL PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND APPROACHES.

HE REMINDED MUSLIMS ON HOW FREQUENT MUSLIM COUNTRIES FELL INTO THE HANDS OF NON-MUSLIM ENEMIES BECAUSE OF THE WEAKNESS OR INCOMPETENCE OF MUSLIMS. -- MORE

1445MST 08 11 86

D545

B E357 AAE
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 5 PETALING JAYA

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR URGED MUSLIMS NOT TO SEPARATE EDUCATION INTO SECULAR AND RELIGIOUS, IF THEY WERE TO BENEFIT FROM EDUCATION. THE STUDY OF THE QURAN AND HADIS IF DONE WITH THE INTENTION OF MISUSING THEM WAS NO MORE RELIGIOUS THAN THE STUDY OF OTHER SUBJECTS WITH SIMILARLY BAD INTENTIONS, HE SAID.

+IF MUSLIMS COULD APPRECIATE THIS, THEN THE MENTAL BLOCK AMONG MUSLIMS ABOUT EDUCATION CAN BE OVERCOME AND THEY WILL BE STRONGER AND BETTER ABLE TO DEFEND AND PROPAGATE THEIR FAITH.+

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO TOUCHED ON THE LEADERSHIP CRISES WHICH HE SAID FREQUENTLY SEEMED TO PLAGUE MUSLIM ORGANISATIONS, POINTING OUT THAT MUSLIMS SHOULD CHOOSE ONLY THOSE WITH +INTELLECTUAL, MORAL AND SPIRITUAL CAPACITIES+ TO BE THEIR LEADERS.

THOSE ELECTED TO OFFICE, HE SAID, MUST PLAY AN EFFECTIVE ROLE AND SHOULD NOT REMAIN APATHETIC AND INDIFFERENT TO EVENTS HAPPENING AROUND THEM. -- MORE

1450MST 08 11 86

D546

B E358 AAE
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 6 PETALING JAYA

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR MUSLIM ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS RISEAP TO CULTIVATE A SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE AMONG MUSLIMS.

ALL EFFORTS OF MOBILISATION AND ORGANISATION WOULD NOT BE FULLY EFFECTIVE UNLESS MUSLIMS UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY MUST DEVOTE SOME OF THEIR TIME, MONEY AND ENERGY FOR THE CAUSE OF ISLAM, HE SAID.

HE SAID A GOOD MUSLIM SHOULD NOT EXPECT RETURNS, MUCH LESS EVALUATE THE MERIT GAINED, FROM WHAT HE SACRIFICED IN THE INTEREST OF THE FAITH.

HE ALSO SPOKE OF THE +SEGREGATIONIST ATTITUDE+ AMONG SOME MUSLIMS WHO PREFERRED TO KEEP AWAY FROM THOSE OF OTHER FAITHS.

+HOW CAN WE BRING TO THEM THE MESSAGE OF ALLAH IF WE CANNOT MEET THEM AT ALL AND HOW CAN WE SHOW THEM THE GOODNESS, THE GREATNESS AND THE TRANQUILITY OF ISLAM IF WE (MUSLIMS) NEVER HAVE CONTACT WITH THEM?+ HE ASKED. -- MORE

1451MST 08 11 86

B E359 AAE
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 7 PETALING JAYA

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WARNED MUSLIMS THAT ISLAM COULD BE THE MOST MISUNDERSTOOD RELIGION AMONG NON-MUSLIMS, IF MUSLIMS PREFERRED TO CONFINE THEMSELVES AND SELDOM PARTICIPATE IN NON-RELIGIOUS INTER-COMMUNAL ACTIVITIES AS TO REDUCE THEIR CONTACT WITH OTHERS.

+AND BECAUSE THEY (NON-MUSLIMS) DO NOT UNDERSTAND, THEY ARE FREQUENTLY ANTAGONISTIC. THEY FEAR CONVERSION, BECAUSE ISLAM IS PERCEIVED AS A SERIES OF RESTRICTIONS ON EVERYTHING THAT THEY CHERISH,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT AS MUSLIMS USUALLY WERE STRONG IN THEIR FAITH, THE EASY RELATIONS WITH NON-MUSLIMS WOULD NOT AFFECT THEM.

IN FACT IT WOULD SOMEWHAT DIMINISH THE UNREASONING FEAR AND ANTAGONISM DISPLAYED BY NON-MUSLIMS, PARTICULARLY THE CHRISTIANS, HE STRESSED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IF THIS SITUATION COULD BE REALISED, MUSLIMS WOULD THEN BE MORE FREE TO PRACTISE THEIR FAITH WITHOUT ATTRACTING THE ABUSE AND OBSTRUCTION THAT OFTEN TROUBLED MUSLIM MINORITIES. -- BERNAMA

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