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KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 15. (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT IS PURSUING A POLITICAL APPROACH TOWARDS RESTORING MUSLIM UNITY IN THE COUNTRY, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

IN ADDITION, A SPECIAL +MUZAKARAH+ (DISCUSSION) WOULD BE CONVENED TO DISCUSS THE UNITY OF THE UMMAH, TO WHICH POLITICAL LEADERS, ULAMAS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS WOULD BE INVITED, HE SAID.

HE WAS REPLYING TO SEN MOHAMED YUSOFF KASSIM IN THE DEWAN NEGARA WHO ASKED HOW FAR DIFFERING POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR MUSLIM DISUNITY AND WHAT STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO REUNITE THE COMMUNITY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID OTHER MEASURES IN THIS DIRECTION INCLUDED CREATING AN AWARENESS AMONG THE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY MUSLIMS, OF THE SPLIT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND THE CONSEQUENCES.

+WITHOUT THIS AWARENESS, THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO RESTORE UNITY WILL NOT SUCCEED,+ HE SAID. -- MORE  
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HE SAID EFFORTS WERE ALSO BEING MADE TO STEP UP MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES TO PROVIDE MUSLIMS WITH A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE RELIGION SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT FALL PREY TO THE INFLUENCE OF DEVIATIONIST TEACHINGS WHICH COULD DIVIDE THEM.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID A NATIONAL-LEVEL PANEL CALLED THE UKHUWAH ISLAMIAH COMMITTEE HAD BEEN SET UP TO FIND WAYS TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF MUSLIM DISUNITY.

HE SAID A DIVIDED MUSLIM COMMUNITY WOULD:

- +HAMPER NATIONAL SOLIDARITY,
- +JEOPARDISE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES,
- +WEAKEN THE MUSLIMS IN THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SUCCESS, AND
- +ADVERSELY AFFECT MISSIONARY EFFORTS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOLD SEN HAJI SHAHROM MASSOM IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE EFFECTS OF THE +MUZAKARAH+ HELD RECENTLY. -- MORE

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HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE +MUZAKARAH+ HAD SUCCEEDED IN GETTING THOSE WITH DIFFERENT OPINIONS TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE MUSLIMS.

HE ALSO SAID THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS FOREIGN POWERS WERE CAUSING THE SPLIT AMONG MUSLIMS, ALTHOUGH EVENTS ABROAD HAD INFLUENCED A GROUP OF PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY. -- BERNAMA  
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