

D051

B E662 AAE
MAHATHIR-THRIFT

EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AT 9.30 TONIGHT

86
KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 24 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT URGED MUSLIMS TO BE THRIFTY AT ALL TIMES AND NOT ONLY FOR ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OR DURING ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES.

+WE SHOULD BE THRIFTY WITH OUR TIME, OUR WORLDLY PROPERTY, OUR HEALTH, OUR TIES WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND FELLOW MUSLIMS AS WELL AS WITH THE PEACE IN OUR SOCIETY,+ HE SAID.

+GOD WILLING, THROUGH THRIFT, WE WILL HAVE SERENITY AND WELLBEING BOTH IN TIMES OF PEACE AND DURING EMERGENCIES,+ HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE NATIONAL QURAN READING COMPETITION HERE.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S CALL TO THE PEOPLE TO BE DISCIPLINED AND DILIGENT IN THEIR WORK TO RAISE PRODUCTIVITY WAS PART OF THE PRACTICE OF THRIFT AS REQUIRED BY ISLAM.

+THIS CALL IS IN LINE WITH THE INJECTION OF ISLAMIC VALUES, AND THOSE WHO BELITTLE OR IGNORE THIS EFFORT ARE OPPOSING THE ASSIMILATION OF ISLAM VALUES,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT REALISED A SECTION OF THE POPULATION HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FALL IN COMMODITY PRICES, BUT ADDED THAT THEY MUST ACCEPT IT AS A +TEST+ BY ALLAH.

HE SAID IT WAS A TEST OF THEIR PATIENCE AND FAITH IN FACING CHALLENGES AND THEIR RESOURCEFULNESS IN OVERCOMING THESE PROBLEMS.

+WHILE WE PRAY TO ALLAH FOR HELP, WE MUST ALSO MARSHALL OUR ENERGIES AND THOUGHTS TO OVERCOMING THESE PRESSURES AND NOT LOSE HOPE BECAUSE THESE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS WE UNDERGO ARE ACTUALLY A BLESSING IN DISGUISE,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ANYONE COULD BE CONSIDERED FORTUNATE IF HE RECOGNISED HIS OWN POTENTIAL. FOR EXAMPLE, A PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSON COULD STILL USE HIS MIND TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE OR HIS HANDS TO ACQUIRE SKILLS.

+IF WE SAY WE ARE POOR, WE SHOULD ASK OURSELVES WHETHER WE HAVE MADE FULL USE OF THE GIFTS PROVIDED BY GOD; OTHERWISE WE WOULD HAVE BEEN UNGRATEFUL AND HAVE INDULGED IN WASTAGE,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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HE SAID THE VIRTUE OF THRIFT WAS ESSENTIAL BECAUSE APART FROM ENSURING ECONOMIC INTEGRITY AND STRENGTH, IT WOULD ALSO HELP MAINTAIN THE RESILIENCE OF THE UMMAH AND THE NATION.

BY BEING THRIFTY, THE NATION WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO AVOID FALLING INTO DEBT OR LOSING ITS ASSETS THROUGH SPENDING MORE THAN IT EARNED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SPOKE OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO THE PROMOTION OF THRIFT.

HE SAID AIR TRAVEL HAD MADE IT EASIER AND CHEAPER FOR MUSLIMS TO PERFORM THE PILGRIMAGE, WHEREAS IN THE PAST ONLY THE RICH COULD AFFORD THE TRIP.

+THE SAVING IN TIME AND MONEY HAS BEEN THE RESULT OF ADVANCEMENTS MADE IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND WHILE WE REAFFIRM OUR FAITH AND DEEPEN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF ISLAM, WE MUST PURSUE THE KNOWLEDGE TO BE GAINED FROM SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,+ HE SAID.

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION IS +BERJIMAT BERKAT, MEMBAZIR MUDARAT+ (THRIFT IS A BLESSING, WASTAGE A FOLLY). -- BERNAMA

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