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R E622 DEE
MAHATHIR-RELIGION
BN

ALOR SETAR, AUG 1 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMED
REMINDED MUSLIMS TODAY TO BE WARY OF CERTAIN GROUPS WHICH USE
RELIGION FOR THEIR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS.
HE SAID VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS ON ISLAM WERE CURRENTLY BEING
MADE BY CERTAIN PEOPLE FOR THEIR PERSONAL INTERESTS, EITHER IN THE
FIELD OF POLITICS OR ECONOMY.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT CERTAIN QUARTERS SET UP
+RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS+ NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF TEACHING RELIGION BUT AS
BASES FOR POLITICAL PROPAGATION.

AS A RESULT, THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM HAD BEEN +CONTAMINATED+ BY
POLITICAL ELEMENTS. HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE \$339,000 ASRAMA PUTRI
AT SEKOLAH MENENGAH AGAMA (ARAB LANGGAR, RAUDATUL ULUM AL-DINIYAH
NEAR HERE.

HE SAID POLITICS FORMED PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF ISLAM, BUT
IT WAS INTENDED TO COUNTER THE ENEMIES OF ISLAM AND NOT FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES. -- MORE

1259MST 01 08 86

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MAHATHIR-RELIGION 2 ALOR SETAR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED THAT POLITICS, IN THE ISLAMIC
SENSE, WAS NOT POLITICS TO PIT THE MUSLIMS AGAINST EACH OTHER.
BECAUSE THIS WOULD ONLY DIVIDE THE PEOPLE.

HE ALSO REMINDED MUSLIMS, PARTICULARLY THE PARENTS, TO BE
CAREFUL ABOUT LEAVING THEIR CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN THE
HANDS OF TEACHERS OR ULAMAKS WHOM THEY DID NOT KNOW.

HE SAID THERE WERE CERTAIN RELIGIOUS TEACHERS AND ULAMAKS WHO
WERE INCLINED TO MIX RELIGION WITH POLITICS FOR THE PURPOSE OF
SPREADING A PARTICULAR POLITICAL IDEOLOGY.

+WE MUST BEWARE OF THE DANGER POSED BY THESE RELIGIOUS TEACHERS
AND ULAMAKS WHO DEVIATE THE TRUE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM FOR POLITICAL
INTERESTS,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MIXING POLITICS WITH RELIGION HAD
RESULTED IN A SMALL GROUP OF MUSLIMS ACCUSING OTHER MUSLIMS, HIMSELF
AND UMNO MEMBERS INCLUDED, OF BEING +KAFIR+ (INFIDEL). -- MORE

1233MST 01 08 86

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U E629 AAE
MAHATHIR-RELIGION 3 ALOR SETAR

HE ADDED THAT SUCH ACCUSATIONS WERE VERY SERIOUS AND THE ACCUSERS SHOULD HAVE FIRST STUDIED WHETHER THEY HAD ANY BASIS.

HE SAID IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT MANY PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE YOUNG, WERE EASILY INFLUENCED BY SUCH ALLEGATIONS BECAUSE THEY WERE MADE BY THOSE KNOWLEDGEABLE IN ISLAM.

+CHILDREN ARE LIKE A CLEAN WHITE SHEET. IF RELIGIOUS TEACHERS OR ULAMAKS SINCERELY INTERPRET ISLAMIC TEACHINGS TO THE CHILDREN, THE OUTCOME WILL BE GOOD BUT IF THEIR TEACHINGS ARE TINGED WITH POLITICS, THE CHILDREN WILL ALSO BE EASILY SWAYED,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO MENTIONED A CERTAIN GROUP WHICH HE SAID USED CHILDREN AS +SLAVES+ FOR WHAT THEY CLAIMED TO BE IN THE INTEREST OF ISLAM.

HE SAID THE CHILDREN WERE USED BY THE GROUP, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO SELL GOODS FROM WHICH THE PROFITS WERE PURPORTEDLY FOR THE CAUSE OF ISLAM WHEN THEY ACTUALLY WENT INTO THE GROUP'S COFFERS. -- MORE
1306MST 01 08 86

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U E630 AAE
MAHATHIR-RELIGION 4 ALOR SETAR

HE HIT OUT AT PAS FOR PUTTING GOD AT THE SAME LEVEL AS HUMAN BEINGS BY CALLING ITSELF +GOD'S PARTY+.

THE PRIME MINISTER FELT THAT THE PARTY'S ACTIONS WERE SOLELY AIMED AT FISHING FOR VOTES IN THE GENERAL ELECTION.

HE SAID THE ELECTION WAS NOT INTENDED TO DETERMINE WHETHER A PERSON WAS A MUSLIM OR OTHERWISE, ADDING THAT IT WAS AIMED AT SELECTING PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES WHO WOULD SERVE THE PEOPLE, RELIGION AND RACE AND NOT MAKE USE OF ISLAM.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HOPED THE PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE SWAYED BY PAS WHICH HE SAID HAD TRIED TO CONFUSE THEM WITH THE PARTY'S POLITICALLY-TONED UNDERSTANDING OF ISLAM.

THE PRIME MINISTER, ACCOMPANIED BY DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI, ARRIVED HERE THIS MORNING ON THE LAST LEG OF HIS NATIONWIDE ELECTION CAMPAIGN TOUR.

HE WILL VISIT PERLIS THIS AFTERNOON AND WILL CAST HIS VOTE IN TITI GAJAH SUNDAY. -- BERNAMA
1321MST 01 08 86