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B EO30 AAE

ATTN EDITORS: URGENT CORRECTION R'R'R'

PARA 4 LINE 1 IN ITEM SLUGGED +MAHATHIR-ISLAM+ SHOULD READ +WE REGARD RESEARCH IN SCIENCE AS ANTI-RELIGION --- RPT ANTI-RELIGION AND NOT RELIGION AS SENT+

HERE CORRECTED RPTN
MAHATHIR-ISLAM

KUCHING, FEB 23⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED ON MUSLIM NATIONS TO INTENSIFY AND UPGRADE COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TOWARDS SOLVING MANY OF THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE UMMAH AND THE ISLAMIC WORLD.

+WE MUST RE-EXAMINE OUR CAPABILITIES AND IDENTIFY OUR WEAKNESSES, ESPECIALLY OUR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE IN THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,+ HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE ISLAMIC FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT'S (IFSTAD), SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL HERE.

HE SAID VERY OFTEN THE ATTITUDE OF MUSLIMS TOWARDS SCIENCE, SOMETIMES REGARDING IT AS ALIEN AND DANGEROUS, WAS WRONG.

+WE REGARD RESEARCH IN SCIENCE AS ANTI-RELIGION AND CONSEQUENTLY WE ARE NOT KNOWN FOR APPLYING SCIENCE TO OUR DAILY LIFE,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT ALL THESE MISCONCEPTIONS MUST BE DISCARDED IF MUSLIMS WERE TO BENEFIT FROM SCIENCE.

HE SAID THE DISCOVERIES MADE BY WESTERN SCIENTISTS HAD RENDERED THEIR COUNTRIES RICH AND POWERFUL AND TODAY, MUSLIM NATIONS HAD TO PAY HIGH PRICES FOR THE PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM THESE DISCOVERIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF DEFENCE. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-ISLAM 2 KUCHING

+AND BECAUSE OF THIS WE HAVE BECOME TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON THE SO-CALLED WESTERN TECHNOLOGY,+ HE SAID.

SUCH WAS THE PROGRESS MADE BY WESTERN SCIENTISTS THAT EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE WAS GOVERNED OR AT LEAST INFLUENCED BY THEIR KNOW-HOW, HE ADDED.

HE SAID MUSLIM NATIONS MIGHT BLAME AND CONDEMN THE WESTERN WORLD FOR THE POWER THEY HAD GAINED THROUGH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BUT +WE CANNOT SAY WE ARE TOTALLY BLAMELESS+.

+WE HAVE COME TO THIS STATE OF DEPENDENCE BECAUSE WE ARE STILL ARGUING ABOUT ACQUIRING KNOWLEDGE IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ARE STILL TALKING ABOUT WHAT IS SECULAR AND WHAT IS NOT IN OUR INTERMINABLE DISCUSSIONS IN MODERN CONFERENCE HALLS OF UNSURPASSED ARCHITECTURAL BEAUTY.

+IN THE NAME OF ISLAM, STOP THIS FRUITLESS POLEMICS AND GET ON WITH EDUCATION, WITH THE QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE AND INTO RESEARCH,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE

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U E023 AAE
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 3 KUCHING

HE SAID KNOWLEDGE SHOULD NOT BE CONDEMNED SIMPLY BECAUSE SOME AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE WERE BAD OR IRRELIGIOUS.

THE PRESENT PROTRACTED WORLD-WIDE ECONOMIC RECESSION AND UNSETTLING POLITICAL TRENDS, COUPLED WITH THE PROBLEMS OF DRUG ABUSE, UNEMPLOYMENT, DEPRESSED COMMODITY AND OIL PRICES, INCREASED PROTECTIONISM AND THE DEBT PROBLEMS HAD AFFECTED ISLAMIC NATIONS ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, HE SAID.

COOPERATION AMONG MUSLIM COUNTRIES IN THE ACQUISITION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL KNOW-HOW THEREFORE SEEMED TO BE MORE URGENT THAN EVER, HE ADDED.

+WE MUST PROMOTE GREATER EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN OUR COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SO AS TO MINIMISE COST AND SHARE THE BENEFITS,+ HE SAID.

AS FOR MALAYSIA, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE COUNTRY WAS FULLY COMMITTED AND WOULD CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF MUSLIM COUNTRIES IN ALL SPHERES OF COMMON INTEREST.

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MAHATHIR-ISLAM 4 KUCHING

HE ALSO REAFFIRMED MALAYSIA'S SUPPORT FOR IFSTAD'S OBJECTIVES, FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELDS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACHIEVING RAPID, COORDINATED AND WIDE-RANGING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE MUSLIM UMMAH.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SUGGESTED THAT ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES OF IFSTAD MAKE IT A NATIONAL POLICY TO PROMOTE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC PLANS.

+WE HAVE ALSO TO SUPPORT EXISTING RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS IN THE MEMBER STATES AND ASSIST THOSE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY MUSLIM SCIENTISTS,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT SPECIFIC AREAS OF RESEARCH SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED AND GIVEN PRIORITY TOWARDS THE CREATION OF DISTINCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES INDIGENOUS TO THE ISLAMIC WORLD.

THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE STRONG MORAL AND POLITICAL SUPPORT TO THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (OIC) AND ITS AGENCIES.

THE TWO-DAY MEETING WILL DISCUSS AND INITIATE PLANS TOWARDS THE PROMOTION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MUSLIM WORLD.

MALAYSIA IS REPRESENTED IN THE COUNCIL BY SARAWAK CHIEF MINISTER DATUK PATINGGI HAJI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD. -- BERNAMA

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