

D699

B E360 AAE
MAHATHIR-ISLAM

17

PETALING JAYA, APRIL 6⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE DESTINY OF THE MUSLIMS LIES IN THE FUSION OF NEW IDEAS BASED ON THE ETERNAL PRINCIPLES OF ISLAM AND THEIR PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION.

HE SAID MUSLIMS SHOULD NOT BE SATISFIED WITH +VAGUE+ STATEMENTS THAT +ISLAM IS A COMPLETE WAY OF LIFE+ WITH NO ATTEMPT TO MAKE OPERATIONAL ISLAM'S ETERNAL IDEALS IN THEIR PRACTICAL DAY-TO-DAY LIFE.

+IF WE SAY THAT ISLAM IS FOR ALL TIMES, THEN WE MUST APPLY IT TO THE CONDITIONS PREVAILING IN OUR TIMES,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHEN OPENING AN ISLAMIC MANAGEMENT SEMINAR AT THE INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY HERE.

HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM IF MUSLIMS IN THEIR ENDEAVOUR TO PRACTISE THE TEACHINGS TRIED TO RECREATE THE STATE OF AFFAIRS AT THE TIME OF THE PROPHET.

+IT WOULD BE AN ADMISSION THAT ISLAM WAS GOOD FOR SAUDI ARABIA IN THE SEVENTH CENTURY OF MASIHI OR THE FIRST CENTURY OF THE HIJRAH ONLY, CONTRARY TO THE STATEMENT THAT ISLAM IS FOR ALL TIMES,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE
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B E362 AAE
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 2 PETALING JAYA

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOLDEN ERA OF ISLAM WAS ACHIEVED BECAUSE THE EARLY INTERPRETERS OF THE QURAN AND THE SUNNAH WORKED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE SITUATION PREVAILING DURING THEIR TIME.

HE SAID THE END OF THIS GLORIOUS PERIOD CAME WHEN RIGIDITY SET IN AND THE CHANGED CONDITIONS WERE IGNORED WHEN INTERPRETING AND FORMULATING THE FIQH.

+IF AFTER 800 YEARS MUSLIM SPAIN FINALLY FELL INTO CHRISTIAN HANDS, IT IS BECAUSE THE MUSLIMS AND THEIR ADMINISTRATORS AND MANAGERS FAILED TO RECOGNISE THE CHANGED SITUATION AND TRIED TO SOLVE 15TH CENTURY PROBLEMS WITH SEVENTH CENTURY METHODS,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED THAT THE DOWNFALL OF THE MUSLIMS WAS ALSO DUE TO THE SLOW ROT THAT THEIR PROSPERITY AND POWER BROUGHT THEM, DESERTING THE QURAN AND GIVING THEMSELVES UP TO THE GOOD LIFE.

+THE COMBINATION OF FOSSILISED METHODS AND APPROACHES AND THE DECLINE OF ISLAMIC MORAL VALUES, PARTICULARLY IN ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT, FINALLY CAUSED THE DOWNFALL OF THE MUSLIM NATIONS,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE
1715MST 06 04 87

B E374 AAE
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 3 PETALING JAYA

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THERE WERE SOME ARTICLES OF FAITH IN ISLAM THAT ALL MUSLIMS MUST ACCEPT WITHOUT QUESTION.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, IN THE CONDUCT OF THEIR DAILY AFFAIRS, THE INJUNCTIONS OF ISLAM WERE ALWAYS BASED ON REASONS WHICH THINKING MEN, MUSLIMS OR OTHERWISE, COULD READILY ACCEPT.

+IT IS UP TO US TO LOOK INTO THESE REASONS FOR GUIDANCE IN OUR DAILY AFFAIRS RATHER THAN TO REGARD THE INJUNCTIONS AS DETERMINANTS OF OUR BELIEF IN ISLAM.+

ON MODERN MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, HE SAID, THE CHALLENGE OF DEVELOPING SUCH A SYSTEM COMPATIBLE WITH ISLAM AND YET CAPABLE OF COMPETING WITH THE CURRENT WESTERNISED SYSTEM WAS A DAUNTING ONE.

+AN ISLAMIC SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT IN THE 15TH CENTURY HIJRAH MUST OF NECESSITY BE A NEW AND MODERN EXPERIMENT DIRECTED TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF ISLAM AND TRANSLATING ITS VALUES AND PRINCIPLES IN THE CONTEXT OF PRESENT DAY LIFE,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID. -- MORE

1735MST 06 04 87

B E377 AAE
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 4 PETALING JAYA

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT TRUSTWORTHINESS WAS AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF AN ISLAMIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, A QUALITY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPHET.

HE HOPED THE SEMINAR WOULD EXHIBIT AN OPENNESS AND FLEXIBILITY WHICH COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING ISLAMIC CODES AND METHODS IN THE 15TH CENTURY HIJRAH.

SAYING THAT THE SEMINAR WOULD CONSTITUTE AN +IJTIHAD+ (THOROUGH STUDY), HE URGED PARTICIPANTS TO EXAMINE INTERPRETATIONS OF THE QURAN AND HADITH IN THE LIGHT OF THE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS FACED BY MUSLIM SOCIETIES AT PRESENT.

+IF WE FAIL TO CONSIDER THAT POINT, WE WILL FAIL TO ENSURE THAT ISLAM IS A RELIGION FOR ALL TIMES,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

EDUCATION MINISTER ANWAR IBRAHIM, DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DATUK DR YUSOF NOOR AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK, PROF DR KORKUT OZAL, WERE PRESENT AT THE OPENING.

-- BERNAMA

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