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 MAHATHIR-QURAN
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(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 10.30PM TODAY) (P)

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 13⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT SAID A SOCIETY AND NATION NEEDED LEADERS AND ADMINISTRATORS WHO ARE FIRM TO ENSURE HARMONY, JUSTICE AND WELLBEING.

IF THE NATION'S LEADERS AND ADMINISTRATORS WERE DRAWN FROM THOSE WHO WERE NOT FIRM IN CARRYING OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES AND IF THEY DID NOT SUBSCRIBE TO TRUTH, THE WHOLE SOCIETY WOULD BE WEAK, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

+CORRUPTION, FAVOURITISM AND ADDICTION TO ALCOHOL AND DADAH REFLECTED AN INDIVIDUALITY WHICH WAS NOT FIRM AND UNABLE TO FACE CHALLENGES WHEN DISCHARGING DUTIES,+ HE SAID.

OPENING THE NATIONAL-LEVEL QURAN READING COMPETITION AT THE ISLAMIC CENTRE OF MALAYSIA HERE, HE SAID THE DIGNITY OF THE RACE, RELIGION AND NATION WOULD BE LOST IF A SOCIETY AND NATION WERE LED AND ADMINISTERED BY WEAK INDIVIDUALS.

APART FROM FIRM LEADERS AND ADMINISTRATORS, FIRM PARENTS AND EDUCATIONISTS WERE ALSO IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE STRENGTH AND HIGH MORALITY OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION TO A GREAT EXTENT DEPENDED ON THEM. -- MORE

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+TEACHERS AND PARENTS SHOULD JOINTLY MAKE EFFORTS TO CREATE A COMMUNITY WHICH WAS FIRM TO ENSURE ISLAM'S CONTINUED STRENGTH IN THE FUTURE,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

ANCIENT HISTORY OF ISLAM PARTICULARLY THAT RELATED TO RASULALLAH S.A.W. AND KHULAFU AR-RASYIDDIN PROVED THAT FIRM ACTION PRODUCED OUTSTANDING RESULTS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

THE RASULALLAH CONTINUED TO SPREAD ISLAMIC TEACHINGS THOUGH HE WAS COAXED, THREATENED AND ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO BRIBE HIM WITH ALL KINDS OF LUXURIES BY THE QURAISH COMMUNITY WHICH WANTED HIM TO STOP SPREADING THE TEACHINGS.

+HE SHOWED HIS FIRMNESS IN UPHOLDING A JUST ADMINISTRATION WITHOUT FAVOURITISM OR BOWING TO ANY PRESSURE AND EXPLAINED THAT AMONG THE REASONS FOR THE DECLINE OF THE COMMUNITY IN THE PAST WAS FAVOURITISM IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID. --

MORE

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SAIDANA ABU BAKAR AS-SIDIQ ALSO DISPLAYED FIRMNESS WHEN HE FOUGHT MUSLIMS WHO REFUSED TO MAKE ZAKAT PAYMENTS AND THOSE WHO DEVIATED FROM ISLAMIC TEACHINGS DURING THE INITIAL PERIOD OF HIS ADMINISTRATION.

ON THE THEME OF THE COMPETITION, +MUSLIMS' FIRMNESS IS ISLAM'S STRENGTH+, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS SELECTED ON THE GOVERNMENT'S REALIZATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MOULDING MUSLIMS' INDIVIDUALITY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR INVITED THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY TO PRACTISE THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM AS CONTAINED IN THE HOLY QURAN TO CREATE A TRUE ISLAMIC IDENTITY.

HE SAID NEGATIVE VALUES AMONG MUSLIMS IN THIS COUNTRY SHOULD BE VIEWED SERIOUSLY AND CHECKED SO THAT THE STRENGTH OF THE NATION, THE PURITY OF MUSLIMS AND THE GREATNESS OF ISLAM WOULD BE PRESERVED.

ON REALISING THIS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD IMPLEMENTED THE POLICY TO INFUSE ISLAMIC VALUES IN THE ADMINISTRATION TO CREATE FIRMNESS IN BEHAVIOUR AND MOULD A NOBLE CHARACTER. -- MORE
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APART FROM THAT, THE GOVERNMENT HAD DRAWN UP VARIOUS PROGRAMMES ON ISLAMIC EDUCATION SO THAT NOBLE VALUES WOULD BE CHERISHED BY MUSLIMS.

HE SAID THE VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES PLANNED BY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE SUCCESSFUL WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE ENTIRE MUSLIM COMMUNITY.

+I URGE THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND ATTEND RELIGIOUS CERAMAHS, CLASSES AND FUNCTIONS,+ HE SAID.

ONLY THROUGH THIS, MUSLIMS WOULD BE ABLE TO INCREASE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND STRENGTHEN THEIR FAITH. -- BERNAMA
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