

R 0127 HRC
MAHATHIR
BM

76

EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 9.30PM TODAY (MAY 28) (7)

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 28 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS TOLD MUSLIMS THEY SHOULD NOT ACCEPT NEWS AT FACE VALUE AS THIS COULD LEAD TO DIVISIVENESS AMONG THEMSELVES.

THEY MUST VERIFY INFORMATION THEY RECEIVE, HE SAID, ADDING THAT WHILE NOT ALL NEWS HAD TO BE UNTRUE IT WAS POSSIBLE SOME REPORTS WERE FABRICATED FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.

IN HIS HARI RAYA MESSAGE CARRIED BY RTM TONIGHT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MUSLIMS NEEDED TO BE AWARE THAT THE QURAN REQUIRED THEM TO CHECK OUT ALL STORIES THEY HEARD SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT BECOME DIVIDED AS A RESULT OF SLANDER AND OTHER FALSE ACCUSATIONS.

+IT WOULD BE A GREAT WRONG AND A SIN IF WE HELP SPREAD NEWS WHOSE VERACITY WE DO NOT KNOW,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MUSLIMS WERE CURRENTLY FACING NUMEROUS CHALLENGES, AND THEIR WEAKNESSES WERE BEING EXPLOITED BY THOSE WHO WERE INTENT ON DIVIDING THE MUSLIMS AND UNDERMINING THEIR RELIGIOUS FAITH. -- MORE

1039MST 28 05 87

0787

R E130 AAE
MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

THEIR PLANS WERE MADE EASIER BECAUSE THE ISLAMIC NATIONS WERE GREATLY DEPENDENT ON COUNTRIES WHO SYMPATHISED WITH ISLAM'S ENEMIES, HE SAID.

IN MALAYSIA, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, THROUGH SUBTLE METHODS, ANTI-ISLAM FORCES WERE TRYING TO INCITE CERTAIN GROUPS INTO THREATENING THE COUNTRY'S STABILITY BECAUSE THEY KNEW THAT STABILITY HELD THE KEY TO A NATION'S PROGRESS AND RESILIENCE.

+WE MUST PRESERVE OUR UNITY FOR IT WILL ENABLE US TO IMPLEMENT OUR PLANS AND ACHIEVE OUR AMBITIONS,+ HE SAID.

DISUNITY, ON THE OTHER HAND, WOULD BRING BACKWARDNESS AND POSSIBLY SIGNAL THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF A SOCIETY, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR URGED MUSLIMS TO RESPECT AND BE CORDIAL TO ONE ANOTHER, SAYING THE VERSES IN THE QURAN FREQUENTLY ENJOIN MUSLIMS TO BE COURTEOUS AND RESPECTFUL. -- MORE

1041MST 28 05 87

0788

R E131 AAE
MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

+THIS SHOWS THAT WE MUSLIMS CANNOT SEPARATE FAITH AND CIVILITY IN OUR LIVES,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE QURAN ALSO REMINDS MUSLIMS NOT TO REVILE OR LOOK DOWN ON OTHERS AS THE LATTER MIGHT BE BETTER THAN THEY.

THE QURAN, HE SAID, PROHIBITS MUSLIMS FROM MAKING UTTERANCES THAT WOULD HUMILIATE OTHERS. -- BERNAMA

1042MST