

D245

U E878 AAE
MAHATHIR RRR
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 SEPT (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CRITICISED THOSE WHO SOUGHT POLULARITY AND ADULATION FROM CERTAIN GROUPS BY PURPOSELY RAISING ISSUES THAT CAN BRING ABOUT DISUNITY AMONG THE UMMAH.

+THEIR ACTIONS HAVE CLEARLY DEVIATED FROM THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND TEACHINGS OF ISLAM WHICH WANT US TO UNITE AND WHICH FORBID DISUNITY,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHEN OPENING THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON UNITY OF THE UMMAH AT THE ISLAMIC CENTRE HERE.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH THE QUESTION OF UNITY OF THE UMMAH WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT BASIC ISSUE FOR THE FUTURE AND SURVIVAL OF THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY, THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO THOUGHT AND CONSIDERED IT UNIMPORTANT.

+TO THEM, THE QUESTION OF UNITY OF THE UMMAH IS SOMETHING ORDINARY,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT IN FACT IT REPRESENTED THE BINDING FORCE AND PULSE OF THE STRENGTH OF THE UMMAH.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR URGED THOSE WHO WANTED CHANGES THROUGH THE USE OF EXTREMIST APPROACHES THAT DEVIATED FROM ISLAMIC TEACHINGS TO CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE TO ENSURE THAT THE CHANGES THAT THEY SOUGHT WERE NOT OPPOSED OR REJECTED. -- MORE
1212MST 28 09 87

D254

U E880 AAE
MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

+...IF WE WANT THE PEOPLE TO ACCEPT SOMETHING THAT IS GOOD THAT WE PUT FORWARD, WE HAVE TO THINK OF THE STRATEGY, MEANS AND APPROACH TO ADOPT SO THAT THE MATTER IS WELL-RECEIVED,+ HE SAID.

EXHORTATIONS THAT RELEGATE GOOD BEHAVIOUR AND THE PRINCIPLES OF MORALITY OF ISLAM WOULD NOT PRODUCE ANY GOOD BUT WOULD INSTEAD BRING ABOUT UNFAVOURABLE REPERCUSSIONS AND LEAD TO STRONG OPPOSITION AND DISUNITY, HE ADDED.

SUCH OPPOSITION WOULD NORMALLY RAISE THE SPIRIT TO A LEVEL OF EXTREMISM AND BECAUSE OF SUCH EXTREMISM, THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE WOULD BE FORGOTTEN AND THERE WOULD BE ANIMOSITY AMONG THE PARTIES INVOLVED.

+IT IS CLEAR THAT PUTTING ASIDE GOOD BEHAVIOUR AND THE PRINCIPLES OF MORALITY OF ISLAM IN EFFORTS TO PROPAGATE ISLAMIC TEACHINGS WILL NOT ACHIEVE THE DESIRED OBJECTIVES, BUT WILL INSTEAD OBSTRUCT UNITY OF THE UMMAH,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

ISLAM OPPOSED ALL FORMS OF EXTREMISM, EITHER IN SPEECH, ACTION, APPROACH AND SO ON, BECAUSE IT NOT ONLY THREATENED HARMONY, PEACE AND TRANQUILITY IN SOCIETY BUT ALSO NATIONAL SECURITY, HE ADDED. -- MORE

1232MST 28 09 87

0268

U E890 AAE
MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

ISLAM'S OPPOSITION TO SUCH ATTITUDE WAS NOT ONLY CONFINED TO ONE RACE OR RELIGION BUT INCLUDED ALL RACES AND RELIGIONS, HE SAID.

+AS SUCH, ISLAM ADVOCATES THAT WE PRACTISE THE PRINCIPLE OF MODERATION AND ACT WITH WISDOM, BE IT IN TERMS OF APPROACH, STRATEGY, METHOD AND SO FORTH,+ HE SAID, QUOTING A VERSE FROM THE SURAH AL BAQARAH.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MODERATION WAS DEMANDED BY ISLAM BECAUSE IT WAS ONLY THROUGH MODERATION THAT JUSTICE COULD BE OBTAINED.

+FROM THIS JUSTICE WILL EVOLVE A HARMONIOUS AND PEACEFUL SOCIETY,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE MODERATE ATTITUDE WAS THE YARDSTICK FOR DETERMINING +WHETHER WE QUALIFY AS PEOPLE WHO CAN PROVIDE EXPLANATION AND JUSTICE TO OTHERS,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
1325MST 28 09 87

0271

U E891 AAE
MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

COMMENTING ON ALLEGATIONS OF CHRISTIANS ATTEMPTING TO CONVERT MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MISUNDERSTADINGS BETWEEN FOLLOWERS OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS WAS DANGEROUS.

HE CITED THE EXAMPLE OF LEBANON WHICH WAS DESTROYED BECAUSE OF ENMITY BETWEEN THE CHRISTIANS AND THE MUSLIMS, NORTH IRELAND WHERE THE THE CATHOLICS WERE FIGHTING THE PROTESTANTS, PUNJAB WHERE THE SIKHS WERE FIGHTING THE HINDUS, INDIA WHERE THE HINDUS WERE FIGHTING THE MUSLIMS AND IRAN AND IRAQ WHERE THE SHIAH AND SUNNI WERE FIGHTING.

BECAUSE OF THIS DANGER OF MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE FOLLOWERS OF THE VARIOUS RELIGIONS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE CAREFUL WHEN MAKING STATEMENTS ON MATTERS WHICH COULD RESULT IN RIOTS AMONG THE VARIOUS RELIGIOUS FOLLOWERS.

REITERATING HIS STATEMENT ON ALLEGATIONS OF CHRISTIANS CONVERTING THE MALAYS TO THEIR FAITH, HE SAID : +THERE IS NO CLEAR PROOF EXCEPT FOR CHRISTIANS WHO HAD EMBRACED ISLAM FOR MARRIAGE OR OTHER REASONS AND LATER REVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY DUE TO FRUSTRATION WITH SOMETHING.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HOPED THAT SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE ALLEGATIONS WOULD BE STOPPED BECAUSE +WE DO NOT WANT RIOTS AMONG RELIGIOUS FOLLOWERS IN THE COUNTRY WHEN UNITY AMONG THE MUSLIMS ITSELF IS NOT SO STRONG.+ -- MORE
1345MST 28 09 87

0273

U E892 AAE
MAHATHIR 5 KUALA LUMPUR

+WE ARE DISUNITED AMONG OURSELVES, HAVING SEPARATE IMAMS, MOSQUES AND CEMETERIES, PERFORMING THE HAJ SEPARATELY AND NOW THERE ARE ATTEMPTS TO PUT UP A VILLAGE SEPARATING MUSLIMS FROM MUSLIMS.

+IF THERE IS FRICTION BETWEEN THE FOLLOWERS OF OTHER RELIGIONS, THEN OURCOUNTRY WILL NOT BE PEACEFUL AGAIN,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO REGRETTED THAT THE QUESTION OF APOSTACY HAD BEEN RAISED IN PLACE OF THE KAFIR (INFIDEL) ISSUE, SAYING THAT THIS HAD AFFECTED UNITY AMONG THE MUSLIMS.

SEVEN WORKING PAPERS WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE THREE-DAY SEMINAR WHICH IS ATTENDED BY ABOUT 250 PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES INCLUDING INDONESIA, JORDAN, KUWAIT, PAKISTAN, EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA AND ENGLAND. -- BERNAMA
1355MST 28 09 87