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B E377 AAE
MAHATHIR- ISLAM
BM

EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AT In.30 TONIGHT

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 7 (BERNAMA) - DATUK SERI D R MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT THE CURRENT RESURGENCE OF ISLAMIC AWARENESS WILL NOT HAVE ANY MEANING IF MUSLIMS DO NOT SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN THEIR ECONOMIC, EDUCATION AND POLITICAL STANDING.

THEY SHOULD NOT LIMIT THE REVIVAL TO GLORIFICATION OF THE ISLAMIC ADMINISTRATION OF THE ERA OF THE PROPHET'S COMPANIONS BUT HARNESS THE MOMENTUM FOR IMPROVING THEIR POSITION IN THE THREE FIELDS TO WIN THE RESPECT OF OTHER PEOPLE.

THE TASK OF STRENGTHENING MUSLIM ECONOMY WAS CLOSELY RELATED TO EFFORTS TO RESTORE THE INTEGRITY OF THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY ITSELF, HE SAID AT A FUNCTION ORGANISED IN APPRECIATION OF THE SERVICES OF PILGRIMS MANAGEMENT AND FUND BOARD (TABUNGHAJI) OFFICIALS HERE.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE URGED THE MUSLIMS NOT TO RESTRICT THEMSELVES TO ONLY ONE RESOURCE, BUT TO USE ALL AVAILABLE FOR THE GOOD OF THE UMMAH (MUSLIM COMMUNITY).

+MUSLIMS WILL NOT GET ANYWHERE IF WE DEPEND ON KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE GAINED ONLY AMONG OURSELVES.+ -- MORE --

2022HST07 1% A7

B E378 AAE

MAHATHIR-ISLAM 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE CLAIM BY SOME GROUPS THAT COOPERATING WITH NON-MUSLIMS WAS AGAINST THE WISHES OF ISLAM, NOT ONLY HAD NO BASIS IN ISLAM BUT WOULD WEAKEN AND DESTROY MUSLIMS AS WELL.

IN LINE WITH THIS, HE ASKED TABUNGHAJI TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS IN THE INVESTMENT SECTOR, AS WELL AS PROVIDE GOOD AND EFFICIENT SERVICES TO MUSLIMS GOING ON PILGRIMAGE.

HE REITERATED HIS HOPE FOR TABUNGHAJI TO PURSUE ITS ROLE OF REHABILITATING THE MUSLIM ECONOMY WITH GREATER VIGOUR, EVEN THOUGH ONLY 1.2 MILLION OF THE SEVEN MILLION MUSLIMS IN THIS COUNTRY SAVED WITH TABUNGHAJI.

THE AVERAGE SAVINGS LEVEL OF DEPOSITORS WAS QUITE LOW, BETWEEN \$400 AND \$500 ONLY, AND HE CALLED ON ALL CONCERNED TO WORK TOWARDS IMPROVING THE RATE TO AT LEAST \$1,000 PER PERSON.

DATUK SERI D R MAHATHIR SAID TABUNGHAJI ALSO NEEDED TO VIEW ITS TASK OF PILGRIMAGE HANDLING IN A WIDER PERSPECTIVE, AS PERFORMANCE OF THIS ISLAMIC TENET TO A CERTAIN EXTENT INFLUENCED THE ATTITUDES, WAY OF THINKING AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE SOCIETY. -- MORE.

2029HST 07 12 97

B E399 AAE
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

TABUNG HAJI AND THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES SHOULD PERHAPS STUDY THE IMPLICATIONS OF MULTIPLE PERFORMANCE OF THE HAJ, NOT ONLY FROM THE ASPECT OF THE RELIGIOUS INJUNCTION ITSELF BUT ALSO THE EFFECTS ON SOCIETY, THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND SECURITY CONTROL IN THE HOLY LAND.

+AS WE ALL KNOW, PROPHET MUHAMMAD PERFORMED THE HAJ ONLY ONCE IN HIS LIFETIME, HE SAID, ADDING WE GO TO MECCA A SECOND TIME IF WE CAN AFFORD IT AND IF WE THINK OUR FIRST TRIP THERE HAD NOT MET THE REQUIREMENTS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SUGGESTED PILGRIMS GOING MORE THAN ONCE BE ADVISED ON THE VARIOUS OBLIGATIONS THEY SHOULD ALSO MEET SUCH AS GIVING ALMS TO THE POOR, FUNDING RELIGIOUS PROJECTS AND OTHER SIMILAR ACTS AS REQUIRED OF MUSLIMS BY ALLAH.

HE HOPED ANY STUDY TO BE MADE WAS COMPREHENSIVE AND IN-DEPTH TO AVOID ANY MISCONCEPTION, OTHERWISE ACCUSATIONS WOULD BE MADE THAT WOULD EVENTUALLY LEAD TO A NEGATIVE PERCEPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING.

THE PROPOSAL MUST BE LOOKED AT WITH AN OPEN MIND AND NOT INTERPRETED TO MEAN ENCOURAGEMENT TO SPEND EXTRA MONEY ON WORLDLY MATTERS INSTEAD OF ON EFFORTS PRESCRIBED BY ISLAM.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE STUDY MUST ALSO SEEK THE VIEWS OF OTHER ISLAMIC INSTITUTIONS SO THERE WOULD BE CONSENSUS OF OPINION.

-- BERNAMA
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MAHATHIR-ISLAM 4 KUALA LUMPUR (REOPENS ITEM)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR LATER PRESENTED A SOUVENIR TO UNIVERSITI MALAYA VICE-CHANCELLOR ROYAL PROFUNGKU AZIZ WHO SUBMITTED A WORKING PAPER TO THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TABUNG HAJI.

ROYAL PROFUNGKU AZIZ TOLD REPORTERS LATER HE GOT THE IDEA FROM HIS RURAL RESEARCH WORK.

HE SAID TABUNG HAJI NEEDED TO PROVIDE A WIDER SCOPE OF SERVICES AND THINK OF MORE WAYS IN WHICH IT COULD USE DEPOSITORS' FUNDS AS INVESTMENT CAPITAL CONSONANT WITH ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES.

TABUNG HAJI CHAIRMAN DATUK HAJI MOHAMED SHAMSUDDIN YAACOB IN HIS SPEECH SAID TABUNG HAJI DIRECTOR-GENERAL DATUK HAJI HANAFIAH HAJI AHMAD WOULD BE SUCCEEDING HIM EARLY NEXT YEAR.

DATUK HAJI SHAMSUDDIN WHO HAS BEEN THE CHAIRMAN FOR 11 YEARS SAID HAJI AHMAD YEOP ABDUL HAMID (CURRENT TABUNG HAJI DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL) WOULD BECOME THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL.

DATUK HAJI HANAFIAH WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED AT THE FUNCTION AS THE FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE CHIEF EXTRAORDINAIRE AWARD OF THE MALAYSIAN ASSOCIATION OF PRODUCTIVITY. -- BERNAMA
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