

0919

U E726 AAE
MAHATHIR-ISLAM
EM

JITRA, DEC 10 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI OR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY INTERPRETATIONS CONCERNING ISLAM MUST BE MADE CAREFULLY TO AVOID CONFUSING THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY.

HE SAID MUSLIMS MUST NOT BE INFLUENCED BY PEOPLE INTERPRETING THE RELIGION ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN VIEWPOINTS WHICH CONTRADICTED TRUE ISLAMIC TEACHINGS.

OPENING A COURSE ON ISLAMIC UNDERSTANDING AT MASJID AL-AQSA HERE, HE SAID MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY SHOULD KEEP AWAY FROM DEVIATIONIST TEACHINGS SUCH AS CERTAIN TARIKAT (MYSTICAL) TEACHINGS WHICH COULD CONFUSE THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY.

HE CITED THE EXAMPLE OF THE ATTACK ON THE BATUPAHAT POLICE STATION SOME TIME AGO BY A GROUP OF FOLLOWERS OF DEVIATIONIST TEACHINGS WHO BELIEVED WHAT THEY WERE DOING WAS IN ACCORD WITH TRUE ISLAMIC TEACHINGS.

HE SAID THERE EXISTED DISSATISFIED GROUPS WHICH ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF FAILING TO FULLY IMPLEMENT AN ISLAMIC ADMINISTRATION IN THE COUNTRY. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-ISLAM 2 JITRA

DATUK SERI OR MAHATHIR SAID MUSLIMS MUST REALISE THAT IN A COUNTRY WITH A MULTIRACIAL AND MULTIRELIGIOUS POPULATION, ISLAMIC ADMINISTRATION COULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED IN A HASTY MANNER.

+WE MUST NOT CREATE A SITUATION OF FORCING OTHERS TO FOLLOW ISLAM REQUIREMENTS BECAUSE TRUE ISLAMIC TEACHINGS ADVOCATE MODERATION,+ HE SAID.

MUSLIMS IN THIS COUNTRY SHOULD BE THANKFUL BECAUSE DESPITE MAKING UP SLIGHTLY MORE THAN HALF THE POPULATION, THEY HELP THE ADMINISTRATIVE POWER.

MUSLIMS WANTED THIS POWER, NOT TO SUPPRESS THE NON-MUSLIMS OR TO ABUSE IT, BUT TO ENSURE JUSTICE FOR FOLLOWERS OF ALL FAITHS IN THE COUNTRY, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD NON-MUSLIMS THEY HAD NOTHING TO BE ANXIOUS ABOUT IN THE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO SPREAD THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM. -- MORE

1412MST 10 12 87

0931

U E731 AAE
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 3 JITRA

PRESENT AT THE OPENING WERE KEDAH MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI HAJI OSMANAROFF AND ISLAMIC MISSIONARY FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN DATUK SERI HAJI KAMARUDDIN ISA.

ABOUT 1,000 IMAMS, RELIGIOUS TEACHERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS ATTENDED THE COURSE.

DATUK SERI OR MAHATHIR LATER VISITED THE UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA CAMPUS IN TANJUNG PAUH. -- BERNAMA

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