

B E008 AAE
MAHATHIR-ULAMA RRR
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 2 (BERMAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD
TODAY CALLED ON ULAMAS TO USE THE ISLAMIC APPROACH WISELY TO
ENLIGHTEN, UNITE AND DEVELOP THE MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY SO THAT THEY
ARE ABLE TO SAFEGUARD THEIR RELIGION AND THEMSELVES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WISDOM IN IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE,
DELIVERING SPEECHES AND TAKING ACTION AS WELL AS IN LEADERSHIP WERE
AMONG THE VITAL APPROACHES TO ENSURE HARMONIOUS LIVING.

+IT IS VITAL FOR A KNOWLEDGEABLE PERSON TO USE HIS WISDOM AND
BASE HIS ACTIONS ON CURRENT NEEDS AND DEVELOPMENTS,+ HE SAID WHEN
OPENING THE ASSEMBLY OF GURU TAKMIR (MOSQUE TEACHERS) AT THE ISLAMIC
CENTRE HERE.

SOME 1,720 MOSQUE TEACHERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ARE
ATTENDING THE THREE-DAY ASSEMBLY WITH THE THEME +TOWARDS REGAINING
THE STANDING OF RELIGIOUS TEACHERS IN SUPERVISING COMMUNITY
ACTIVITIES.+ THE ASSEMBLY, ORGANISED BY THE ISLAMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION
OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT, BEGAN YESTERDAY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THERE WAS A GROUP OF MUSLIMS IN
THE COUNTRY WHO WERE EXPERTS IN CERTAIN FIELDS OF KNOWLEDGE BUT WERE
NOT WELL VERSED IN CARRYING OUT DUTIES ENTRUSTED IN THEM. -- MORE
1846MST 02 08 88

D921

B E017 AAE
MAHATHIR-ULAMA 2 KUALA LUMPUR RRR

+THIS HAS RESULTED IN VARIOUS NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON SOCIETY,+ SAID
THE PRIME MINISTER, STRESSING THAT FAILURE IN CARRYING OUT A TASK
WISELY, CAREFULLY AND EFFICIENTLY HAMPERED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
PROGRAMMES FOR RELIGIOUS AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

APART FROM THAT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, THERE WERE CERTAIN
GROUPS WHICH TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE EXISTING SITUATION TO MAKE
VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS AND WILD ACCUSATIONS TO CONFUSE MUSLIMS TO
AN EXTENT THAT THEY FAILED TO FACE THE CHALLENGES IN LIFE.

+THE ACTION BY THESE GROUPS GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY HAD
FAILED TO USE THEIR WISDOM TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS,+ HE SAID.

+A PERSON WHO IS WISE IS SOMEONE WHO TAKES PAINS TO IDENTIFY THE
PROBLEM, IS PREPARED TO HELP OVERCOME AND REDUCE THE PROBLEM AND NOT
OTHERWISE,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ULAMAS SHOULD SET ASIDE ALL OTHER
INTERESTS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO GUIDE THE MUSLIMS IN MALAYSIA TO THE
TRUE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM. -- MORE/NA972
1910MST 02 08 88

0953

B EQ37 AAE
MAHATHIR-ULAMA 3 KUALA LUMPUR RRR

HE SAID THAT ULAMAS AS A GROUP WHICH HAS A GOOD STANDING IN ISLAM SHOULD MAINTAIN THE STRENGTH OF ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP SO THAT ISLAM WAS NOT THREATENED BY MATERIAL OR SPIRITUAL WEAKNESSES.

HE URGED ULAMAS WHO DID NOT HAVE OTHER INTERESTS APART FROM THAT OF ISLAM TO ENSURE THE AUTHENTICITY AND TRUTH OF THE TEACHINGS WHICH CAME FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

+THE TRUE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM ARE THAT WHICH ARE EXPLAINED IN THE QURAN AND SUNNAH. THE DIFFERENCES THAT EXIST NOW ARE CAUSED BY THE DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS BY ISLAMIC LEADERS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT EXPLANATIONS OF WHAT ISLAM WAS REALLY ALL ABOUT WOULD ERASE WHATEVER DOUBTS AMONG THE PEOPLE AND MAKE MUSLIMS RESILIENT AND STRONG AND SAFEGUARD MUSLIMS FROM VARIOUS PRESSURES AND INFLUENCES WHICH COULD WEAKEN ISLAM AND THEIR COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER URGED THE PEOPLE TO BE WARY OF ACCEPTING THOSE WHO WERE MERELY KNOWLEDGEABLE IN ISLAM.

HE STRESSED THAT A PERSON WAS AN ULAMA NOT BECAUSE HE WAS ONLY KNOWLEDGEABLE IN ISLAM. -- MORE
2008MST 02 08 88

0954

B EQ38 AAE
MAHATHIR-ULAMA 4 KUALA LUMPUR RRR

+STUDIES SHOULD BE MADE ON TEACHINGS CONVEYED BY AN INDIVIDUAL, ON THEIR IMPORTANCE AND HIS PRACTICES BEFORE HE IS ACCEPTED AND RECOGNISE AS ULAMA.+

IF SUCH A STUDY WAS NOT MADE, DEVIATIONIST TEACHINGS WOULD SPREAD WIDELY AND MUSLIMS WOULD BE DIVIDED AND BE AT ENMITY WITH ONE ANOTHER, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE DANGERS AND POSSIBILITY OF A SPLIT AMONG MUSLIMS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.

ALSO PRESENT WERE MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DATUK DR YUSOF NOOR AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS DIVISION DATUK DR ABDUL HAMID OTHMAN.

AFTER THE OPENING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR JOINED THE MOSQUE TEACHERS FOR TAHLIL.

THE PRIME MINISTER WILL ENTERTAIN THEM TO DINNER TONIGHT. --
BERNAMA
2010MST 02 08 88