

0091

U E111 AAE
MAHATHIR-ISLAM
BM

88
KUALA LUMPUR, FEB 6 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD
TODAY REMINDED THE MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY TO GIVE PRIORITY TO
TRUSTWORTHINESS AND HONESTY IN WHATEVER BUSINESS THEY TAKE PART IN.
+UNTRUSTWORTHY AND DISHONEST ACTS IN BUSINESS WILL RESULT IN
LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN THE MUSLIMS AND DIFFICULTIES IN THE BUSINESSES
OF THE MUSLIMS THEMSELVES,+ HE SAID.

LAUNCHING YAYASAN NADWAH AKADEMI ISLAM (NADI) BERHAD HERE, THE
PRIME MINISTER SAID MANY OF THE MUSLIMS RIGHTLY DID NOT WANT TO BE
INVOLVED IN BUSINESSES THAT WERE CONSIDERED +HARAM+ IN ISLAM.

+THEY DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO THE LIQUOR OR GAMBLING TRADE OR
BUSINESSES INVOLVING EARNING OF INTEREST, BUT IRONICALLY THERE ARE
SOME AMONG THEM WHO DO NOT GIVE PRIORITY TO TRUSTWORTHINESS AND
HONESTY IN THEIR DEALINGS.

+THERE ARE THOSE WHO BORROW WITH NO INTENTION TO PAY BACK, USE
THE LOANS FOR OTHER ACTIVITIES AND MISAPPROPRIATE FUNDS ENTRUSTED TO
THEM. THERE ARE THOSE WHO PROMISE TO SUPPLY CERTAIN GOODS BUT
REPLACE THEM WITH GOODS OF INFERIOR QUALITY,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
1250MST 06 02 88

D101

B E114 AAE
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID SUCH ACTS WERE NO LESS EVIL THAN INVOLVEMENT IN TRADES
THAT ISLAM PROHIBITED BUT THIS WAS NOT TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY SOME OF
THE MUSLIMS.

HE HOPED THE NADI FOUNDATION WOULD SHOW A GOOD EXAMPLE AND
MAINTAIN A HIGH PERFORMANCE IN THE BUSINESS IT TOOK UP SO THAT +ITS
MISSIONARY WORK WILL NOT BE CONFINED TO WORDS ONLY+.

ANY FAILURE OF THE FOUNDATION WOULD NOT ONLY BE A LOSS TO
MUSLIMS BUT WOULD TO AN EXTENT TARNISH THE INTEGRITY OF ISLAM, HE
SAID.

HE WELCOMED THE FOUNDATION'S PLANS TO HOLD ACTIVITIES TO IMPART
ISLAMIC UNDERSTANDING TO ITS MEMBERS AS WELL AS ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES
TO GENERATE FUNDS FOR ITS ACTIVITIES.

THE FOUNDATION'S POLICY IN WANTING TO BE SELF-RELIANT IN THE
CONDUCT OF ITS ISLAMIC ACTIVITIES WAS ENCOURAGING BECAUSE THERE WERE
NOW MANY ORGANISATIONS WHICH DEPENDED ON GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO
FUND THEIR ACTIVITIES, HE SAID. -- MORE
1307MST 06 02 88

D109

B E116 AAE
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IF THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY IN THE COUNTRY WANTED TO PROGRESS WITHOUT AFFECTING THEIR FAITH IN THEIR RELIGION, THEY MUST BE ADEPT AT MOVING AROUND IN THE MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY THEY LIVED IN.

+ISOLATING ONESELF FROM THE NON-MUSLIMS IS NOT THE WAY, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THERE ARE LEARNED MUSLIMS WHO DO NOT WANT TO MIX WITH THE NON-MUSLIMS.+

THIS, HE SAID, WAS AN ATTITUDE THAT WAS NOT SUITED TO THE TRUE SITUATION IN MALAYSIAN SOCIETY.

IN THIS RESPECT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WANTED THE ULAMAS TO GIVE ATTENTION TO WAYS IN WHICH THE MUSLIMS COULD INTERACT WITH THE PEOPLE OF OTHER FAITHS.

+THE ULAMAS THEMSELVES MUST INTERACT WITH THE MUSLIMS SO THAT THEY CAN ADVISE THEM BASED ON PERSONAL EXPERIENCE.+

ADVICE GIVEN IN ISOLATION WOULD ONLY CONFUSE THE MUSLIMS WHO COULD NOT AVOID COMING INTO CONTACT WITH THE FOLLOWERS OF OTHER RELIGIONS, HE SAID. -- MORE

1320MST 06 02 88

D115

B E118 AAE
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOOD AND CORDIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MUSLIMS AND NON-MUSLIMS MUST BE MAINTAINED TO ENSURE PEACE IN THE COUNTRY AS REQUIRED BY ISLAM.

HE SAID WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS NOW WAS THAT THE MUSLIMS OFTEN ACTED IN DISCORDANCE WITH ISLAMIC TEACHINGS AND DID NOT REFLECT THE GOODNESS THAT COULD RESULT FROM ISLAMIC TEACHINGS.

WHAT COULD NOW BE BOASTED WAS THE SUCCESS OF ISLAM IN THE OLDER DAYS WHEN THE RELIGION EXPANDED TO EVERY PART OF THE WORLD AND THE SUCCESSES OF MUSLIM LEADERS OF THOSE TIMES IN VARIOUS FIELDS.

IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR MUSLIMS OF THIS ERA TO SHOW THE SUCCESS THEY HAD ATTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ISLAMIC PRACTICE FOR WHAT WAS BEING CONSTANTLY HIGHLIGHTED WAS THE WAR AMONG MUSLIMS, THEIR POLITICAL DISPUTES AND THEIR BACKWARDNESS IN VARIOUS FIELDS, HE SAID.

IN VIEW OF THIS, HE SAID, THE MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY NEEDED GUIDANCE NOT ONLY IN WORDS BUT ALSO IN ACTS THAT COULD DEMONSTRATE THE TRUTH OF ISLAMIC TEACHINGS. -- MORE

1342MST 06 02 88

D116

U E119 AAE
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 5 KUALA LUMPUR .

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MISSIONARY WORK, IN GENERAL, COULD BE DIVIDED INTO TWO TARGET GROUPS -- MISSIONARY WORK TO STRENGTHEN THE FAITH OF THE MUSLIMS AND TO DELIVER THE MESSAGE OF ISLAM TO NON-MUSLIM FRIENDS.

A DESIRE TO ENSURE THAT ISLAM WAS NOT MISUNDERSTOOD AND TO BRING THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM TO NON-FOLLOWERS WAS AMONG THE TENETS REQUIRED BY ALLAH OF ALL MUSLIMS, HE SAID.

HE RECOUNTED HOW THE PROPHET MIXED WITH THE NON-MUSLIMS WHEN PROPAGATING ISLAM IN MECCA AND MEDINA, ADDING THAT THE MUSLIMS WHO CAME TO THIS COUNTRY CENTURIES AGO ALSO DID LIKEWISE.

HE SAID HE REALISED IT WAS NOT EASY FOR THE MUSLIMS TO FOSTER FEELINGS OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NON-MUSLIMS BUT BY THE GRACE OF ALLAH, THEIR EFFORTS AND GOOD INTENTIONS WOULD BE BLESSED. -- BERNAMA
1344MST 06 02 88