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MAHATHIR-ISLAM

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 13 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAYS THE ISLAMIC RESURGENCE TAKING PLACE WORLDWIDE SHOULD BE VIEWED MORE OBJECTIVELY AND FAIRLY TO PREVENT UNWARRANTED SUSPICIONS FROM ARISING.

HE SAYS WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD MUST BE UNDERSTOOD AS A MOVEMENT STRIVING TO CHAMPION POLITICAL FREEDOM, ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND CULTURAL IDENTITY.

IN HIS MESSAGE CONTAINED IN THE SOUVENIR PROGRAMME OF THE MALAYSIA-LIBYA SOLIDARITY WEEK TO BE LAUNCHED HERE TOMORROW, THE PRIME MINISTER SAYS AS FUNDAMENTALIST MUSLIMS, +WE STRONGLY ADHERE TO ISLAMIC TEACHINGS, PEACE, TOLERANCE AND JUSTICE+.

AS SUCH, +WHY SHOULD WE ALLOW SUCH AN IMPORTANT MOVEMENT DURING THIS ERA, THAT IS, THE ISLAMIC RESURGENCE, TO BE MISINTERPRETED AND MISUNDERSTOOD?+

LIBYAN PRESIDENT COLONEL MUAMMAR GADAFI IN HIS MESSAGE STRESSES THAT THE MUSLIM POLITY SHOULD REALISE THE ISLAMIC WORLD IS NOW FACING A NEW FORM OF +ATTACK+ AS EXPERIENCED BY ISLAMIC GOVERNMENTS IN THE PAST. -- MORE

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HE SAYS AMONG THE ATTACKS ARE ACTIONS OF THE WESTERN COLONISING POWERS AGAINST ISLAM WHICH HAVE CAUSED MUSLIM NATIONS TO REMAIN BACKWARD UNTIL NOW.

WESTERN COLONIALISTS, HE SAID, HAD ALWAYS BEEN JEALOUS AND ENVOUS OF ISLAM AND ALWAYS TRIED TO DESTROY IT THROUGH PROMOTING A CULTURE OF SECULARISM IN ISLAMIC TEACHINGS.

EDUCATION MINISTER ANWAR IBRAHIM IN HIS MESSAGE SAYS KUALA LUMPUR AND TRIPOLI HAVE FORGED CLOSE COOPERATION IN VARIOUS FIELDS ESPECIALLY EDUCATION, CULTURE AND RELIGION.

LIBYA, TOGETHER WITH OTHER ISLAMIC COUNTRIES, HAD SPONSORED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY (IIU) AND ALLOCATED SCHOLARSHIPS WORTH \$146,000 IN 1984 TO GRADUATES OF THE UNIVERSITY, HE ADDS.

INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT SAYS THE CULTURAL PRESENTATION AT THE LAUNCHING WILL BE RECORDED AND SHOWN OVER LIBYAN TELEVISION TO ENABLE LIBYANS TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT MALAYSIAN CULTURE. -- BERNAMA

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