

0004

R E320 A A E
MAHATHIR-ISLAM
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 25 (BERNAMA) -- THE MUSLIMS MUST SHOW THEIR CAPABILITY AND ACHIEVEMENTS AS A WAY OF ATTRACTING OTHER PEOPLE TO EMBRACE ISLAM, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

- HE SAID THAT IF THEY COULD PRESERVE THE IMAGE OF ISLAM AS A RELIGION THAT VALUED EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE, OTHER PEOPLE WOULD BE ATTRACTED TO LEARN ABOUT IT AND TO GET CLOSER TO IT.

IF THE MUSLIMS LIVED IN POVERTY AND WERE UNABLE TO DEVELOP THEIR COMMUNITY ON PAR WITH THE OTHERS, THEY WOULD BE DESPISED AND EFFORTS TO ATTRACT THE NON-MUSLIMS TO ISLAM WOULD FAIL, HE SAID AT A DINNER FOR PARTICIPANTS OF THE MALAYSIAN CONFERENCE FOR ULAMAS AT PUSAT ISLAM HERE.

HE SAID THE SUCCESSES AND PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY THE MUSLIMS WOULD SERVE AS ATTRACTIONS FOR THE NON-MUSLIMS AND WOULD INDIRECTLY INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MUSLIMS IN THE WORLD.

HE SAID THE MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY SHOULD BE PROUD BECAUSE ISLAM WAS THE OFFICIAL RELIGION ALTHOUGH MUSLIMS MADE UP ONLY 50 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION. -- MORE

2255MST 25 10 89

0007

R E321 A A E
MAHATHIR-ISLAM 2 KUALA LUMPUR

+THIS BLESSING MUST BE USED WISELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL PARTIES AND NOT TOWARDS CAUSING DISUNITY AMONG MUSLIMS OR BETWEEN THE MUSLIMS AND NON-MUSLIMS,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT DURING THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (CHOGM) HERE LAST WEEK, MANY OF THE NON-MUSLIM LEADERS WERE IMPRESSED WITH MALAYSIA'S DEVELOPMENT AND THE WAY THE MUSLIMS AND NON-MUSLIMS LIVED TOGETHER.

HE SAID SEVERAL OF THE AFRICAN LEADERS HAD NOT WANTED TO COME HERE EARLIER AND WERE MORE ATTRACTED TO SINGAPORE BECAUSE OF ITS DEVELOPMENT BUT AFTER BEING HERE DURING CHOGM THEY WERE IMPRESSED WITH WHAT MALAYSIA HAD TO OFFER.

+WE DO NOT WANT TO BOAST ABOUT THIS SUCCESS BUT IT IS PROOF THAT AN ISLAMIC COUNTRY CAN DEVELOP ON PAR WITH OR SURPASS THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHICH ARE MOSTLY NON-ISLAMIC COUNTRIES,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID QUEEN ELIZABETH II, DURING A VISIT TO THE SULTAN SALAHUDDIN MOSQUE IN SHAH ALAM RECENTLY, WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE BUILDING WHICH REFLECTED +ISLAM IN MATERIAL FORM.+

EARLIER, THE PRIME MINISTER PERFORMED MAGHRIB PRAYERS AND ATTENDED A TAHLIL. PRESENT WERE MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DATUK DR YUSOF NOR AND INFORMATION MINISTRY PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY DATUK HAJI DUSUKIAHMAD. -- BERNAMA

2310MST 25 10 89