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MAHATHIR-ISLAM R'R'R'R'
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KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 19 (BERNAMA) -- THE POLICY OF ASSIMILATION OF ISLAMIC VALUES BEING STRESSED BY THE GOVERNMENT GIVES MORE EMPHASIS ON ENHANCING THE FAITH RATHER THAN HAVING RIGID RULES FOR MUSLIMS, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID ISLAM SHOULD NOT BE GAUGED BY WHETHER -D-\$IT -\$HAD REGULATIONS OR NOT AS MALAYSIA ITSELF HAD INCULCATED ISLAMIC VALUES TO THE EXTENT THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR LAWS TO PREVENT MUSLIMS DOING THINGS PROHIBITED BY THE RELIGION.

THOSE EXPOSED TO THE ASSIMILATION OF ISLAMIC VALUES WOULD NOT DO THINGS PROHIBITED BY THE RELIGION EVEN WHEN THEY WERE OVERSEAS, HE SAID WHEN REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED AT THE JMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH ENDED HERE.

HE SAID IN A MULTI-RACIAL COUNTRY WITH MANY RELIGIONS, THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO PROTECT THE GOOD IMAGE OF ISLAM, NOT ONLY AMONG MUSLIMS BUT ALSO THE OTHER RACES AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

+THE IMPRESSION GIVEN BY THE FOREIGN MEDIA ON ISLAM IS USUALLY NOT GOOD, AND WE CANNOT RECTIFY THIS OTHER THAN BY PROVING THAT ISLAM IS A GOOD RELIGION, HAS RULED SUCCESSFULLY, DOES NOT SUPPRESS ANYONE AND IS CAPABLE OF DEVELOPING A COUNTRY WELL,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE MUSLIM COMMUNITIES IN SOME COUNTRIES KNOWN FOR THEIR ISLAMIC LAWS HAD FAILED WHEN EXPOSED TO UNFAMILIAR SITUATIONS FORBIDDEN BY ISLAM.

ONE SHOULD JUDGE HOW ISLAMIC A FELLOW MUSLIM WAS THROUGH HIS FAITH AND NOT HIS DRESS CODE, HE ADDED.

ACTUALLY, NO ONE HAD THE RIGHT TO JUDGE HOW ISLAMIC A FELLOW MUSLIM WAS, HE SAID TO THE APPLAUSE OF DELEGATES.

+IF SOME PEOPLE WISH TO WEAR MINI TELEKUNG, GO AHEAD BUT THEY SHOULD NOT LABEL THOSE NOT WEARING AS LESS ISLAMIC.+

+SOMETIMES WE CANNOT SAY THAT A PRAYING MUSLIM IS MORE ISLAMIC THAN A NON-PRAYING ONE BECAUSE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE LATTER HAS BETTER MORALS,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ADVISED MUSLIMS IN THIS COUNTRY NOT TO BE HASTY IN MAKING VALUE JUDGEMENTS ON OTHERS AS THIS COULD CAUSE DISUNITY. -- BERNAMA
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