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MAHATHIR-ATTITUDE  
BM

PULAU PINANG, DEC 1 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS URGED MUSLIMS TO ERASE THEIR OLD-FASHIONED THINKING WHICH SHACKLED THEIR EFFORTS TO SEEK SUCCESS SIMILAR TO THAT OF NON-MUSLIMS.

HE SAID THERE WAS CERTAIN GROUPS WHICH GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT ISLAM WOULD BE BETTER OFF IF MUSLIMS WERE BACKWARD, POOR AND SHABBILY DRESSED, TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY FORGET THAT BEING POOR IS ALMOST LIKE BEING UNBELIEVERS.

SPEAKING AT A FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY FOR THE OFFICE BUILDING AND APARTMENTS OF THE PULAU PINANG AND SEBERANG PERAI ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS COUNCIL HERE, HE SAID AS A RESULT OF IT MUSLIMS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE SCORNE AND ISLAM WOULD BE CONSIDERED OBSTRUCTORS OF DEVELOPMENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MUSLIMS SHOULD ASK THEMSELVES WHETHER THEY WANTED TO LIVE IN POVERTY IN SMALL HUTS, APPARENTLY ACCORDING TO ISLAMIC REQUIRMENTS, WHILE BEING SURROUNDED BY SKYSCRAPPERS.

HE SAID THOSE WHO LIVE IN SUCH BUILDINGS WOULD LOOK DOWN AT MUSLIMS WITH SCORN IF MUSLIMS DID NOT SEEK SUCCESS LIKE THEM. -- MORE  
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MAHATHIR-ATTITUDE 2 PULAU PINANG

ON THE PROJECT WHICH IS ON A 0.2HA PIECE OF ENDOWMENT LAND, HE SAID IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED MUCH EARLIER BUT MUSLIMS WERE VERY CAUTIOUS ON WHETHER DEVELOPING THE LAND WAS IN LINE WITH RELIGIOUS NEEDS.

HE CALLED ON MUSLIMS TO BE CAUTIOUS AGAINST CERTAIN GROUPS WHICH HAVE MADE RELIGION A POLITICAL ISSUE APPARENTLY FOR THEIR OWN INTEREST.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT ANY PROJECTS CARRIED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE PROGRESS OF THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY WOULD NOT BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE NON-MUSLIMS.

THE STATE BUMIPUTERA PARTICIPATION STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, ENCIK ANWAR IBRAHIM, SAID HE WOULD MAKE EFFORTS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF FLOORS OF THE PROPOSED SEVEN-STOREY BUILDING AS IT WAS IN A STRATEGIC LOCATION IN THE CENTRE OF THE TOWN.

THE PROJECT IS AT JALAN MACALISTER NEAR KOMTAR HERE AND HAS SPACE FOR THE BANK ISLAM MALAYSIA BHD BRANCH AND EIGHT UNITS OF MEDIUM COST FLATS. THE COST OF THE BUILDING IS BEING BORNE BY BANK ISLAM AND THE PULAU PINANG AND SEBERANG PERAI ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS COUNCIL. -- BERNAMA  
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