

MAHATHIR-QURAN

BM

KUANTAN, MARCH 2 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT THE GOVERNMENT PLACES DUE IMPORTANCE ON A BALANCED SPIRITUAL AND MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT SACRIFICING THE PEOPLE'S MORAL VALUES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE ITS PEOPLE LIVING IN A TOTALLY FREE SOCIETY WITHOUT ANY MORAL VALUES EVEN THOUGH THE COUNTRY MIGHT PROSPER.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ALSO DO NOT WANT MERELY HIGH MORAL VALUES IN A COUNTRY WHICH IS BACKWARD AND POOR TO THE EXTENT THAT THE RELIGION IS BEING BELITTLED,+ HE SAID AT THE CLOSING OF THE NATIONAL-LEVEL QURANIC RECITERS' ASSEMBLY AND EXAMINATION HERE.

+WE SHOULD HAVE A BALANCE BETWEEN THESE TWO IMPORTANT ASPECTS AND WE THANK ALLAH THAT MALAYSIANS ARE NOT EXTREME IN THEIR ACTIONS,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO URGED THE PEOPLE PARTICULARLY MUSLIMS TO STRIVE FOR UNITY AS THIS WOULD HELP CREAT A STRONG ISLAMIC NATION.-- MORE

2156MST 02 03 90

U E774 AAE

MAHATHIR-QURAN 2 KUANTAN

HE ALSO DESCRIBED AS ENCOURAGING THE DAKWAH MOVEMENT IN THE COUNTRY AS MUSLIMS ARE VERY INTERESTED TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE RELIGION WHILE DAKWAH GROUPS WERE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN PROPAGATING ISLAM.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THERE WAS A GROUP WHICH WAS HIGHLIGHTING MINOR ISSUES THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN RESOLVED BY ULAMAS.

HE ADVISED MUSLIMS NOT TO HARP ON SUCH NON-BENEFICIAL ISSUES AND INSTEAD WORK TOWARDS SELF-IMPROVEMENT AS WELL AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THE LAYING DOWN OF ARMS BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA (CPM) WAS A RESULT OF THE PEOPLE'S UNITY AS THIS HAD SHAKEN THE CONFIDENCE OF THE COMMUNISTS WHO WANTED TO INFLUENCE THE PEOPLE WITH THEIR IDEOLOGY.

+WE MALAYSIANS HAVE RALLIED TOGETHER TO TOTALLY REJECT THIS IDEOLOGY AND THEIR LIFESTYLE. SUCH UNITY COULD FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE POSITION OF THE RELIGION, THE RACE AND THE COUNTRY,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

2158MST 02 03 90

D943

U E775 AAE  
MAHATHIR-QURAN 3 KUANTAN

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SUGGESTED THAT MUSLIMS EMULATE SUCH MUSLIM FIGURES AS ABDULLAH IBN SINA AND IBN KHALDUN SO THAT THEY COULD EARN THE RESPECT EVEN FROM NON-MUSLIMS.

+NOBODY WOULD BE ATTRACTED TO RELIGIONS WHICH ARE BACKWARD AND WHEN MUSLIMS STOP PROGRESSING, THE RELIGION'S GROWTH WILL STOP.

+IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES, ISLAM HAS TAKEN A BACK SEAT TO THE EXTENT THAT MUSLIMS THERE HAD ABANDONED THEIR FAITH FOR SOMETHING WHICH IS AGAINST ISLAM,+ HE SAID.-- BERNAMA

2159MST 02 03 90

0070