

D006

E945 AAE
MAHATHIR-SLANDER
BM

KLANG, SEPT 1, (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT CERTAIN GROUPS OF PEOPLE BLESSED WITH WIDE RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE WERE MAKING SLANDEROUS STATEMENTS TO THE EXTENT OF DISUNITING MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THESE PEOPLE EVEN DID NOT ADHERE TO THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM RELATING TO THE CHARACTER AND DEMEANOUR OF A GOOD MUSLIM.

+THIS WAS WHY THERE WERE DISUNITY, ACCUSATIONS, ALLEGATIONS AND SLANDER, ALL PROHIBITED BY ISLAM,+ HE SAID WHEN OPENING A NEW BUILDING OF THE SEKOLAH RENDAH SUNGAI UDANG NEAR HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID SLANDER WAS DESPISED BY ISLAM, ADDING THAT THE QURAN DESCRIBED SLANDER AS BEING MORE HEINOUS THAN MURDER.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE CURRENT CRISIS IN THE GULF WAS ALSO AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT COULD HAPPEN EVEN IF ONE HAD WIDE RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE BUT DID NOT PRACTISE THE GOOD QUALITIES THAT ISLAM PROFESSED. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-SLANDER 2 KLANG

HE SAID THE GULF CRISIS HAD PUT MUSLIMS TO SHAME AS THE RELIGION PROHIBITED MUSLIMS FROM WAGING WAR WITH ONE ANOTHER BUT INSTEAD ENCOURAGED THEM TO FRIENDS.

AS SUCH, HE ADDED, THE GOVERNMENT WAS EMPHASISING RELIGIOUS AND MORAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS TO ENABLE THE YOUNG TO GROW UP TO BE OF GOOD CHARACTER.

+MALAYSIA WILL BE HIGHLY RESPECTED BY THE WORLD IF OUR PEOPLE HAVE A HIGH MORAL STANDING,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER PRAISED THE SCHOOL'S PERCUSSION BAND FOR HAVING PRESENTED THE +LAMBADA+ TUNE IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT WAS +NICE TO WATCH AND LISTEN+ ALTHOUGH HE SAID THE SONG HAD OFTEN BEEN LINKED TO SEX.

+EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON ONE'S INTERPRETATION, METHOD AND INTENTION. IF SOMETHING IS DONE WITH GOOD INTENTION, THAT SOMETHING WHICH IS BAD CAN BECOME GOOD WHILE SOMETHING GOOD CAN BECOME BAD IF THE INTENTION IS BAD,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

1640MST 01 09 90

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R E963 AAE
MAHATHIR-SLANDER 3 KLANG

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT MALAYSIA WOULD EXPERIENCE MORE INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT.

AMONG THE THOUSANDS WHO ATTENDED THE FUNCTION WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH MOHAMED ALI, SELANGOR MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI MUHAMMAD HAJI MUHAMMAD TAIB, PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER DATUK SERI DR LIM KENG YAİK, TRANSPORT MINISTER DATUK SERI DR LING LIONG SIK, ENERGY, TELECOMMUNICATION AND POSTS MINISTER DATUK SERI S. SAMY VELLU, INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT AND FOREIGN MINISTER DATUK ABU HASSAN OMAR.

EARLIER, THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS ENTOURAGE WERE GIVEN A ROUSING WELCOME BY THE STUDENTS WHO PERFORMED THE +SILAT+ AND MALAY DANCES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS PRESENTED WITH A RED SASH BEARING THE WORDS +WIRA DUNIA KETIGA+ (HERO OF THE THIRD WORLD).

AFTER THE CEREMONY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND HIS ENTOURAGE LEFT FOR THE ISTANA MAHKOTA IN JALAN KOTA RAJA FOR LUNCH WITH THE SULTAN OF SELANGOR.

-- BERNAMA

1630MST.01 09 90