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Mahathir-Islam

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government's efforts to assimilate Islamic values had somewhat been retarded by negative interpretations spread by certain quarters.

+However, we have not given up hope... we will continue with the efforts systematically,+ he said when opening the UMNO general assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

The Prime Minister, who is UMNO President, said the government, led by UMNO, would continue to explain to the people the objectives and goals of the policy.

+We are confident that if the Muslims in Malaysia assimilate the real Islamic values, and not those interpreted by certain people who have their own interests at heart, we will achieve progress both in this world and the next,+ he added.

The Prime Minister assured the non-Muslims that they had nothing to fear about the policy.

+There is no forcing in Islam... we have no intention of forcing non-Muslims to embrace Islam,+ he added. -- more

♥30/11/16-17MST

Here is the corrected repetition.

Mahathir-Islam 2 Kuala Lumpur

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said extremism in Islam existed in one of the states not because the religion wanted it to be so but because some people thought that by doing so they could get more rewards in the next world.

+The truth is that many of those who claim to be Islamic missionaries are more keen to find fault and they sometimes accuse Muslims of being +kafir+ (infidels) instead of taking an interest in attracting non-Muslims to convert to Islam,+ he said.

He added that the problem of a proliferation of religious interpretations came about when more +ulamas+ (religious intellectuals) became interested in politics.

+Realising that their position as ulama carries a lot of influence among the Muslims, they unhesitatingly misinterpreted the religion to suit their political interest,+ he said. -- Bernama

♥30/11/16-46MST