

R GE 19-08 00170 EA003

eng mes tbe

Mhathir - Islam

(EMBARGO: For release after 3pm Aug 19,)

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 19, (Bernama) -- A government administration that truly assimilates Islamic values will bring immense benefits to the people because success is assured, Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

But, if Islamic values were given a narrow or wrong interpretation and the administration fails, it was not Islam that was to blame but those who interpreted it incorrectly, he added.

+On the other hand, when an administration which assimilates Islamic values succeeds, Islam and the Muslims will be respected and all groups can enjoy much benefits.+ he said in his article on +Assimilation of Islamic Values+.

The article is contained in a book on +Values and Ethics in Public Service+ published by the National Institute of Public Administration (Intan).

It was launched by the Chief Secretary to the Government. Tan Sri Ahmad Sarri Abdul Hamid; today. -- more

♥19/08/13-54MST

R GE 19-08 0018'3 EA010

eng mes tbe

Mahathir - Islam 2 Kuala Lumpur (Embargo)

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the Islamic values to be assimilated were those that could build an efficient government, able to administer peace, security and development effectively at par with those of other governments.

Islamic values-given priority could be practiced by all Malaysians, be they Muslims or non-Muslims, he added.

+Values given priority in the administration that are acceptable to Muslims and non-Muslims are honesty, sincerity, sense of responsibility, diligence, discipline. placing the interest of society before self, sacrifice, absence of avarice, far-sightedness, possessing good morals and behaviour and others,+ he said.

The Prime Minister said only Muslims were required to practise all Islamic values while non-Muslims could accent those that were not contrary to their religious beliefs.

+If they eat or drink what is forbidden in Islam. or they gamble but practise other values that are compatible to Islamic values, that should be adequate.+ he added.

Muslims, however. must accent and practise Islamic values with full conviction of its goodness. he said. -- more

♥19/08/13-55MST

R GE 19-08 . 00209 EA011

eng mes tbe

Mahathir - Islam 3 Kuala Lumpur (Embargo)

The Prime Minister said Islamic values to be assimilated were also the values of other religions and Muslims should not lay claim to those values as belonging solely to Islam.

He said when it was announced that the government would assimilate Islamic values, no detailed or official explanation was given, thus, giving rise to officers, government servants and religious teachers making their own interpretations, leading to confusion and differences in perceptions.

He said tolerance in Islam towards non-Muslims was very important especially in Malaysia with its multi-racial and multi-religious population.

Such tolerance was amply proven during Islamic rule in Spain when a Jew was appointed Finance Minister, he added.

+Such is the tolerance of Islamic governments that when the Christian nations suppressed the Jews (who were blamed for the crucifixion of Christ) they usually sought protection in Muslim countries,+ he said.

He said in assimilating Islamic values, what was important was the deed and not words.

+Most Muslims are more interested in words and not deeds. Muslims are left behind now because of the emphasis given to words more than deed,+ he added. -- more

♥19/08/13-56MST

CNS0565

R GE 13-08 00223 EA012

eng mes tbe

Mahathir - Islam 4 Kuala Lumpur (Embargo)

He said the honesty and sincerity of Prophet Muhammad should serve as the guiding light to Muslims but -t-there are many who place importance to spotting a beard like the Prophet but not placing much importance to being honest like the Prophet.+

He added: +If we regard the dressing and appearance of the Prophet as part of his practices, why should we not regard the personality of the Prophet as his-practice to be emulated?

+Are those people who perform certain religious practice but are not honest, lazy, corrupt, irresponsible, insincere and unknowledgeable, really practising Islamic teachings?+

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also criticised groups who think that only by implementing +hudud+ (Islamic mandatory laws) could a government be considered as assimilating Islamic values.

+Islamic laws are not laws to be +blindly+ adhered to. All Islamic laws have certain flexibility as they have to take into account the circumstances.+ he said.

He cited +solat+ prayers as prayers that could be performed in advance or later under certain circumstances. .

He said there were many countries where Muslims formed the majority of the population and the leaders were also Muslims but +hudud+ laws and other Islamic laws were not implemented. -- more

♥19/08/13-57MST

CNS0566

R GE 13-08 00200 EA013

eng mes tbe

Mahathir - Islam 5 Kuala Lumpur (Embargo)

Even in Saudi Arabia, there *were* Islamic laws that were not enforced, he added.

There were also Muslim nations that *did not* officially claim that they were Islamic states and there were those which proclaimed they were 'secular nations. he said.

The Prime Minister said Muslims should ensure that effort to assimilate Islamic values did not lead to the government and nation becoming weak, unviable and chaotic as if this happened Islam would gain a bad name and be regarded an obstacle to progress.

He said it was human nature for people to hold high regard and respect for those who are successful.

Malays who were formerly Hindus or only believed in spirits would not have been influenced by Islam if not for the knowledge and intelligence of the Arabs and Indian Muslims who came to trade in the Malay states, he added.

Just by telling them about heaven and hell and religious practices that would determine a place in the hereafter would not have convinced the Malays on the goodness of Islam, he said. -- Bernama

♥19/08/13-57MST

CNS0566