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Mahathir-Islam

UMNO IS NOT FANATICAL ON THE ISSUE OF ISLAM, SAYS MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 6, (Bernama) -- UMNO President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad once again made UMNO's stand clear -- it would not become a fanatical party but act in moderation and pragmatism on the question of, Islam.

Stressing that Umno held steadfast to the 'true teachings of Islam,' the party would continue to strive for equilibrium between the world and hereafter befitting the teachings which was flexible in its exhortations:

+Moderation is the way called for which could save, expand and strengthen Muslims, + he told more than 1,700 delegates when opening the UMNO General Assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre here today.

Dr Mahathir, who is Prime Minister, said UMNO would be friends and co-operate with non-Muslims who were not their enemies.

Referring to non-Muslim members from Sabah Umno, he said their acceptance in the party would not undo its struggle for Islam because +this is not the first time Muslims and non-Muslims work together to achieve a noble objective+. -- more

▼06/11/10-18MST

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He added that fanaticism was not a teaching of Islam; in fact fanaticism that could put Muslims and Islam in jeopardy' and possible destruction, went against, the teachings.

Dr Mahathir took to task, detractors of Vision 2020 who focussed merely on the vision of the hereafter and said their actions which prevented Muslims from achieving worldly success were the deeds of people working with the enemy.

+Vision 2020 'is not only in line with Islam and, in truth; it is to preserve and expand Islam, + he said, adding that Umno would strive to achieve the vision objectives as its struggle, for the religion.

He said Muslims had the ability to revive the glorious civilisation of the past where they commanded, knowledge in science, medicine, administration; defence, law, navigation and other fields:

+These capabilities are still to be found among Muslims. 'All that is needed is to be freed from the yoke of teachings that stress the hereafter without being balanced, with attention to happiness in the world, + he added. -- more

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Dr Mahathir regretted the attitude of people who gave prominence to the vision of the hereafter and ridiculed Malaysia's ambitions to become a world power capable of helping Muslims like those in Bosnia.

+They are more willing to see Muslims die of starvation or slaughter by the enemies than to strive to equip themselves to protect Muslims and the human race, + he said.

He said these people were willing to let Muslims remain weak, backward, unlearned, persecuted, tortured and down-trodden while they themselves pursued human comforts and power.

To these people, he added, knowledge was confined to interpretations and religious rulings specially selected by them while other knowledge was declared secular and unworthy of pursuit.

+For that reason, today Muslims are not only factionalised and become enemies of one another but they are also ignorant of the true teachings and the knowledge required for development, defence and safety of Muslims, + he said. -- more

▼06/11/10-25MST

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Dr Mahathir stress that the calamities befalling Muslims around the world today did not, stem from the Islamic religion but from the devotion of certain people who interpreted the religion to suit self-interests without regard for the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad.

+Although the Islamic religion revealed to the Prophet Muhammad is only one, it is no longer so today because all kinds of teachings by certain people have divided it into tens of beliefs which of ten contradicted one another, + he said.

He pointed out, that what was meant by the Assabiyah faction were those who gave prominence to factionalism to the extent that there was no longer loyalty to Muslims or the religion.

+When they become loyal to a leader or a political group, they no longer question the good or had or right or wrong of the.. deeds o'f their' leader or group, + he said.

The group, he added, was blindly loyal to their 'leader and group. although what is done by the leader or group was contradictory to Islam. -- more

▼06/11/10-59MST

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+This is the Assabiyah group formed by certain people to achieve their own ambitions. That the existence of this Assabiyah group is opposed to the teachings of Islam and divides and weakens Muslims is ignored by them,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir' said they had no qualms declaring Muslims who opposed them as infidels and defiled the sanctity of mosques to spread their propaganda with impunity...

He admitted that in Islam, politics could not be divorced from religion +but what it means is Islamic politics.. not party politics that give prominence to the group and ambition of leaders, that is, Assabiyah politics.+ -- Bernama

06/11/11-00MST