

CNS9908

R GE 21-01 00171 ED004

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Mahathir - industries (with pix)
PUT ASIDE TRIVIAL ISSUES, MUSLIMS TOLD

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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 21⁹³ (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Muslims should not be carried away by trivial matters to the extent that they neglect the more important problems and responsibilities.

The Prime Minister said in the past too much attention was given to trivial matters without caring for bigger things like their ability in the industrial field.

However, he stressed that industries based on profits alone without thinking of services to the people would not do much good to the society.

"Muslim entrepreneurs should also place emphasis on the aspects of services to the people," he said when opening a meeting on Islam and Industrialisation organised by the Malaysian Institute of Islamic Understanding (IKIM) here.

He said it was necessary for industries to spend part of their profits on research and development to make them more efficient and productive.

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▼21/01/12-50MST

CNS9927

R GE 21-01 00197 ED005

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Mahathir - industries 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said on the other an industry owned by Muslims should not be a +charity+ organisation, as reasonable profits were allowed by the religion while the aspects of services could be given priority to ensure that it was easily acceptable by the Muslim society.

"Irrespective of what the Muslims think about industrialisation, we must remember that industries controlled by the non-Muslims, although without religious motive, can harm the Muslims,+ he said citing the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and West Asia as an example.

He was confident that by considering industries as a service to the society and religion and not only for the purpose of making large profits and accumulating wealth, the Muslims would progress faster in the industrial sector as they would be able to produce quality goods at reasonable prices.

As such, the Prime Minister said, Muslims should consider industrialisation as a vehicle to strengthen the Muslim community and nations so that they would be respected by all.

"A Muslim society which is poor will not be able to contribute anything good to Islam,+ he said.--more

▼21/01/13-15MST

CNS9952

R GE 21-01 00128 ED006

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Mahathir - industries 3 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said that Muslims often had negative attitude towards industrialisation and this had affected their progress. It also contradicted the teachings of Islam.

He said the belief that industries could lead to wrongdoings as opposed to Islam should be discarded if the Muslims were to progress in the industrial field.

Dr Mahathir said Islam wanted its followers to progress through business and industries so long as they did not cheat people or acquire wealth through false means.

He was confident that if Muslims could discard the negative attitude towards industrialisation, they would be able to own and manage industries effectively for the benefit of the religion and society.--more

▼21/01/13-50MST

CNS9975

R GE 21-01 00131 ED008

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Mahathir - industries 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur

The Prime Minister also wanted the Muslim society to pay particular interest to the defence industry to enable Muslim countries to defend themselves against aggression.

"To invent and build weapons and other defence equipment is a must for those who hold to the teachings of the Quran, he said.

Unfortunately, the Muslims had neglected industrialisation as such were unable to produce sophisticated weapons to defend themselves as the defence industry needed many supporting industries, he said.

As a result, no Islamic nation were able to help the Bosnian people who were oppressed by the Serbs.

Dr Mahathir said all this happened because of lack of encouragement by Muslims towards industrialisation.--Bernama

▼21/01/14-14MST