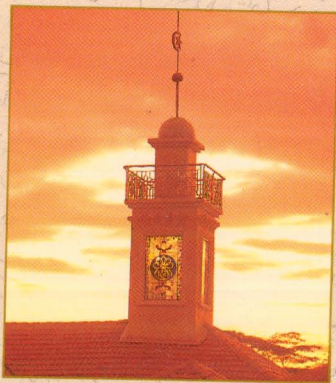


AN INSPIRATION FOR THE FUTURE OF ISLAM

A BRIEF HISTORY AND OBJECTIVES
OF THE
INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC UNDERSTANDING
MALAYSIA (IKIM)



by Syed Othman AlHabshi

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AN INSPIRATION FOR THE FUTURE OF ISLAM

A Brief History and Objectives of the
Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia
(IKIM)

by

SYED OTHMAN ALHABSHI

PUSTAKA PERDANA



1004589



Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia
Kuala Lumpur (IKIM)

Preface

This book was first mooted by The Chairman of IKIM, Y. Bhg. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Ahmad Sarji bin Abdul Hamid during the first IKIM's family dinner on the 8th of January, 1994. It was eventually formally decided at IKIM's Senior Management Committee meeting chaired by Tan Sri, in my absence, that this task is to be undertaken by me. Due to my other heavy commitments, I could not start on the project until the middle of February, 1994. However, after working on it for two days, due to other urgent demands on my time, I had to stall it until the end of the month, before I could work on it again.

My main difficulty was choosing a suitable title for the book itself. Having thought about it for some time, I finally decided on the current title which I thought would aptly describe IKIM itself.

The Prime Minister, Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, has long been very concerned about the plight of Muslims the world over, who have lost all respect and dignity they once held during the glorious days of Islam. It is this concern that has inspired Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir to conceptualise a think tank that would undertake the task of revealing the truth about Islam by clarifying various strategic issues to dispel erroneous misconceptions. He firmly believes that the Muslims have a very bright future if they adhere religiously to all Islamic teachings.

So, IKIM to me, as its name signifies, is the manifestation of that inspiration which would put Islam

in its proper perspective in the future, hence the choice of the title.

This book therefore is aimed at providing a clear picture about the history and rationale for IKIM's establishment, its objectives and programmes so as to carve the direction of its future activities. The tasks IKIM is responsible to undertake are difficult and challenging. They need meticulous strategising and planning in order to ensure that the objectives would eventually be achieved no matter how long it takes.

It is not that the future of Islam depends on the success of IKIM but rather it is the contribution that IKIM could render to Islam that is most pertinent. *God knows best.*

S.O.A.