

Stage set for second rescue of world—PM

NSunT 13 JUN 1982

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The stage has been set for Islam to launch a second rescue of the world with the resurgence of the religion and the tremendous economic wealth at the command of Muslim nations, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said: "This time there should be a better approach so that spiritual values are maintained along with the economic and political advancement of the world."

The Prime Minister said a new world would then emerge which will be more balanced and peaceful than that which followed the Renaissance in Europe.

"Muslims everywhere must be made conscious of this," the Prime Minister said when he opened the first general assembly of the Regional Islamic Dakwah Council of South-East Asia and the Pacific here.

He said Muslims must play their part or once again they might lose the initiative and instead of leading they will be led, possibly towards their own destruction.

"We've seen what happened to some religions which are older than Islam.

"Let us not delude ourselves into thinking

Islam now
has a
big
role
to play

By RASHID BAKAR

that the ravages of time cannot have the same effect on Islam.

"It is imperative, therefore, that we prepare ourselves to counter the total materialism of alien ideologies and beliefs," he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said it was Islam which rescued the world from the Dark Ages and then launched it on the course that has resulted in the so-called modern civilisation.

He told the gathering that Muslims, whether as a minority or majority in any country, have an important role to play.

This role is not limited only to the cause of Islam but also in the context of a nation, or even in the total human society.

"Islam teaches us to live together in harmony, to be tolerant and to be respectful of each other.

"It teaches us to be just and fair in our dealing with every one.

"It teaches us to love our country, to love our neighbours and to love all Allah's creations."

The Prime Minister said Muslims who are living as minorities should not see their minority status as something negative or restrictive.

They should take cognisance of the country's social environment and adhere to the values and standards of Islam, he added.