

MAHATHIR

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MELAKA, MAY 14 (BERNAMA)-- PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR -- MOHAMAD HAS URGED MUSLIMS NOT TO BASK IN PAST GLORIES BUT INSTEAD STRIVE HARD TO REGAIN THEM AND BRING BACK THE GOLDEN AGE OF ISLAM WHEN MUSLIMS WERE HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM.

IN HIS MESSAGE IN THE SOUVENIR BOOK OF THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL QURAN-READING COMPETITION, HE ALSO REMINDED THE MUSLIMS OF THE NEED TO BE WELL-EQUIPPED PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY TO COPE WITH THE CHANGING TIMES.

HE SAID THE MUSLIMS MUST NOT ONLY STRIVE HARDER BUT MUST ALSO EQUIP THEMSELVES WITH VARIOUS KNOWLEDGE3 BECAUSE THE RISE OR FALL OF A NATION DEPENDED ON ITS PEOPLE.

HE ADDED THAT THE MUSLIMS SHOULD NOT DEPEND ON OTHERS TO HELP THEM.--MROE 1334/PA

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO NOTED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN A RENEWAL OF ENTHUSIASM AND EFFORTS AMONG THE MUSLIMS TO BRING BACK THE GOLDEN ERA OF ISLAM.

HE SAID THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED IF THE MUSLIMS ADHERED FULLY TO THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM BECAUSE THE QURAN AND THE PROPHET'S TEACHING HAD THE ANSWER TO ALL PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN ANY AGE.

ON THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION THEM--'LEARNING AND WORKING HARD-A DEMAND OF THE QURAN' --DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE THEME WAS CHOSEN TO REMIND THE MUSLIMS OF THEIR DUTIES.

HE SAID THE THEME WAS MOST SUITABLE IN THE LIGHT OF THE CHALLENGES FACED BY THE MUSLIMS.

--BEWNAMA 1339/PA