

Renew efforts to move forward, Muslims told

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on Muslims to change their attitude and renew their determination with a progressive spirit in order to move forward.

He said the period of Hijrah should be used to reflect the time when the Prophet Muhammad left the Holy City of Mecca for Madinah to save his followers.

Addressing the nation over RTM tonight on the occasion of Awal Muharam tomorrow, Dr Mahathir said Hijrah did not

only indicate "moving" from one place to another but also meant atoning for one's behaviour or work to achieve success.

"*Berhijrah* means planning, taking into consideration our weaknesses; not to be stubborn or be guided by our emotions," he said.

Efforts

Similarly, in Malaysia, the Government, too, practised long-term planning in all its programmes and development strategies, he said.

Dr Mahathir stressed that arrogance of power and emotions should not be allowed to influence

any planning. What was important was sound calculation.

The Government's efforts to heighten the Islamic faith in the nation was also implemented after careful study.

"We do not shout about something connected with Islam with the aim of whipping up support. The Government's planning on Islam is recorded in the education system and other development strategies."

Dr Mahathir said when the Government declared the assimilation of Islamic values, based on its planning, it was appropriate to initiate this effort by firstly inculcating

the values in the Government administration.

The Islamic values that were assimilated, he said, represented universal values which were easily understood and, as such, were well-received by the masses.

The values would ensure that Malaysians would be disciplined, dignified and be a race with a civilisation.

All projects based on Islamic principles, such as the International Islamic University and Bank Islam, were also carried out after careful planning and proper study.

He added that if planning was not done, the Government would have rushed into implementing anything that used the name Islam.

"In our planning we not only take into consideration our abilities, but also our weaknesses. Arrogance of power and emotions must not be allowed to influence our planning.

"Sound calculation is of utmost importance in any planning in order to meet the objective. If our calculations are wrong, especially if it is guided by emotions, then the chances of us faltering are great."

Dr Mahathir urged planners to take into consideration all factors in their planning, although it would be ultimately *Allah the Almighty* who would determine the success or failure of any planning.

The Prime Minister also urged Muslims not to be fatalistic and surrender everything to the will of God.

"There must be effort. The departure of Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Madinah was a result of initiative which had the blessings of *Allah the Almighty*."

Dr Mahathir added that while prayer and practising to be good Muslims were important, there must be initiative and effort.