

Mahathir: Islamic projects carefully planned

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun.

Any programme for the development of Islam is carefully planned before it is implemented, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the same was done for projects such as the International Islamic University, the Islamic Bank and Syarikat Takaful (Islamic Insurance).

"If we don't plan properly, the projects may eventually fail," he said in a speech broadcast over the radio and TV in conjunction with Awal Muharam tomorrow.

The implementation, he said, must not be influenced by arrogance of power or emotions otherwise it could bring disastrous results.

Dr Mahathir said the Government was not carrying out projects associated with Islam just to gain the people's support.

"We are injecting Islamic values which are universal into the government administration because they can be easily understood and accepted by the various races of the country.

"These values would ensure the creation of a Malaysian society that is disciplined, of good moral behaviour and civilised," he said.

Dr Mahathir also called on the Muslim community not just to practise the religion but also strive with determination in every sphere.

He reminded them to ensure that their efforts took into account the position of Muslims in the country.

He drew attention to the *hijrah* (flight) of Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Medina and said the journey held significance for Muslims.

"*Hijrah* does not merely mean the movement from one place to another but the discarding of something that can bring undesirable results and achieving success," he said.

He added that it also meant planning by taking into account one's weaknesses and not being stubborn under the influence of emotions. — Bernama.