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MAHATHIR

KUCHING, MARCH 31⁸⁸ (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS REMINDED MUSLIMS THAT THE SUCCESS AND SUPREMACY OF THE UMMAH RELY ON THE SINCERITY OF EACH OF THEM TOWARDS ONESELF, FAMILY, SOCIETY, CAREER, EMPLOYER AND COUNTRY.

SUCH SINCERITY IS VITAL, APART FROM THE ACQUIREMENT OF VAST KNOWLEDGE, HE SAYS IN A MESSAGE IN THE SOUVENIR PROGRAMME OF THE 30TH NATIONAL QURANIC RECITERS AND EIGHTH QURANIC MEMORISERS ASSEMBLY AND EXAMINATION WHICH WILL BE DECLARED OPEN HERE TONIGHT.

ON THE THEME, +PROGRESS AND SUPREMACY OF THE UMMAH+, FOR THIS YEAR'S QURAN-READING EXAMINATION; HE HOPES THAT IT WILL CREATE AN AWARENESS AMONG THE MUSLIMS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HARD WORK AND DILIGENCE TO ATTAIN PROGRESS AND SUPREMACY.

THIS IS WHAT IS ENJOINED BY ALLAH AND PROPHET MUHAMMAD AND IS CLEARLY EXPLAINED BY THE HOLY QURAN AND THE PROPHET'S TRADITION (AL-SUNNAH) REGARDING THIS WORLD AS A PLACE FOR MAN TO PURSUE PROGRESS, SUPREMACY AND HAPPINESS, HE SAYS.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAYS THAT ISLAM MAKES IT OBLIGATORY FOR ITS FOLLOWERS TO SEEK SPIRITUAL EXCELLENCE AND STRIVE FOR EVERLASTING HAPPINESS IN THE HEREAFTER BY ENJOINING THEM TO PURSUE KNOWLEDGE IN VARIOUS FIELDS AND TO PRACTICE THEM FOR THEIR BENEFIT AND SALVATION. -- MORE

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HE HOPES THAT THIS YEAR'S ASSEMBLY AND EXAMINATION OF QURANIC RECITERS AND MEMORISERS WILL HELP FURTHER ENHANCE ISLAM'S EMINENCE IN THE COUNTRY BESIDES STRENGTHENING THE ISLAMIC FAITH AND GUIDING MUSLIMS TO THE PATH BLESSED BY ALLAH.

SARAWAK CHIEF MINISTER DATUK PATINGGI HAJI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE, IN HIS MESSAGE SAYS THAT IT IS HIGH TIME FOR ALL MUSLIMS TO REGAIN THEIR PROGRESS AND SUPREMACY AS ENJOINED BY THE HOLY QURAN.

+WE SHOULD DO THIS WITHOUT DISCRIMINATING, OPPRESSING OR CAUSING INCONVENIENCE TO OTHERS, BESIDES UPHOLDING THE TRUTH AND WIPING OUT WRONGDOINGS,+ HE SAYS.

HE ALSO DESCRIBES THE HOSTING OF THE ASSEMBLY AND EXAMINATION OF QURANIC RECITERS AND MEMORISERS HERE AS AN HISTORIC AND MEMORABLE EVENT AND AN INVALUABLE GIFT TO THE STATE IN CELEBRATING ITS 25TH YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE THROUGH MALAYSIA.

THE EVENT, IN ADDITION, WILL SPUR THE PEOPLE TO OBSERVE THE ISLAMIC TEACHINGS MORE CLOSELY FOR THEIR OWN PROGRESS AND SUPREMACY, HE SAID.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE FUNCTION, DATUK SERI HAJI KAMARUDDIN MOHAMED ISA, SAYS THAT UNITY OF THE UMMAH FOUNDED ON THE STRONG FAITH OF EACH MUSLIM, WHICH IN TURN NEEDS TO BE FOSTERED WITH COMPLETE DEVOTION TO ALLAH, IS ONE OF THE MOST VITAL FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUPREMACY OF THE UMMAH. --

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