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Mahathir-Islam

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KUALA LUMPUR, March 8, (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Islamic civilisation can be upheld if Muslims are practical and talk less of theories.

Societies fed only with theories and concepts without concrete planning and follow-up would only remain backward and weak, he said.

+This is not Islam's objective or the destiny charted for Muslims. What Islam has taught us must be put into practice,+ the Prime Minister said when launching the corporate zakat collection here.

By wasting time on theories, Muslim societies only caused dissension because of the divergent beliefs created, and would fail to attain the level of Islamic civilisation they dreamed of.

Such a society, he said, was only hiding behind Utopian interpretations to block the reality.-- more

♥08/03/16-18MST

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Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said a nation did not attain civilisation and advancement overnight but achieved them by being, among other things, creative, open, inquisitive, receptive to new ideas, innovative and of high morality.

He said exhortations by certain sectors that Muslims should preoccupy themselves with only spiritual obligations and neglect hardwork and use of intellect only made them weak and unsuccessful.

The Prime Minister said Islam is for all times and places.

But if certain groups were bent on bringing Muslims back to the way of life of Arabs of seventh century A.D. how could Islam then retain such characteristics, he said.

+This is what certain people are trying to do. They have instilled fear in most Muslims that no one dares to question their teachings.

+Because of this Muslims are backward, easily victimised and exploited by non-Muslim powers,+ he said. -- more

♥08/03/16-49MST

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Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Muslims could compete with anyone if only they rejected the interests of certain groups and worked skillfully and maintain quality as enjoined by Islam.

He said it would be more meaningful if Muslims concentrated on what was required of them by God Almighty without disregarding the changes that took place throughout the ages.

Various timeless obligations, such as zakat, the pilgrimage to Mekah and pursuit of knowledge which Muslims must perform, could now be done by using modern facilities and communication equipment, he said.

He said, camels which were used during prophet Muhammad's time by pilgrims to perform the Haj were no longer a practical mode of transportation after Islam had expanded beyond Mekah.

Likewise, pictorial and graphic illustrations which were disallowed for dakwah purposes then were now acceptable medium if applied correctly, he said.

Even the Islamic banking and insurance systems which were absent during the prophet's time, could now be implemented without being contrary to Islamic teachings, he said.

The Prime Minister said all these were part of the Islamic way of life which need not be reenacted in its entirety according to the time of prophet Muhammad.-- Bernama

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