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UNSHACKLE BACKWARDNESS, MAHATHIR URGES MUSLIMS

Mahathir - prophet

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 20⁹¹ (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on Muslims to free themselves from the shackles of backwardness and dependence on favours of other people.

The prime minister said Islam prohibited its followers from being passive and allowing other people to reap every success while they themselves continued to be poor and unknowing.

+Wellbeing in this world may not be achieved without persistent determination and struggle to progress from a less comfortable to a better position,+ he said in the souvenir programme issued in conjunction with the national-level celebrations to mark Prophet Muhammad's birthday held at the Dataran Pusat Islam here.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Azlan Shah, and Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Bainun, attended the celebrations which carried the theme +Berjihad Ke Arah Keagungan+ (Struggle towards Greatness).

Deputy Prime Minister Encik Ghafar Baba and Muslim ministers, senior government officers and members of the diplomatic corps from Islamic nations also attended the gathering. Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir is on an official visit to Mexico. -- more

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CNS6743

R GE 20-09 00191 EA644

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Mahathir - prophet 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

The prime minister said the theme was aimed at, among other things, reminding Muslims to remember and to love the prophet.

He said history had shown that the greatness achieved by Muslims during and after the time of the prophet was the result of their sincerity and willingness to work hard, be productive and bold and be capable of competing in their various undertakings to uphold the religion.

Encik Ghafar said the theme reflected the determination of Muslims to achieve the development Islam required them to strive for.

That development could not be achieved by mixing only with Muslims but also with non-Muslims, he told reporters after the assembly.

He illustrated the presentation of souvenirs by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to several non-Muslims at the gathering as proof of the cooperation of the various races and religions in the country.

Twenty-six people, including taxi and bus drivers, bus conductors, firemen, meter readers and policemen, received plaques as a token of the government's appreciation for their service to D@community. -- Bernama

♥20/09/13-50MST