

▼23/03/19-25MST

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WORK AS USUAL DURING FASTING MONTH, MAHATHIR URGES MUSLIMS

Mahathir - Muslims

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KOTA BAHARU, March 23, (Bernama) -- Prime Minister ⁹² ~~Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad~~ ⁸ tonight urged Muslims to work as usual even in the fasting month to experience the suffering of the less fortunate people.

He said the fast was a test of an individual's patience, and if they slept or rested when fasting they would be unable to understand the misfortunes of other people.

During the fasting month, Muslims should work hard to help the nation progress and match the developed countries, he said when addressing a gathering at the Sekolah Politeknik Kota Baharu in Kok Lanang near here just before breaking of the fast. Dr Mahathir was on a day's visit to Kelantan.

He said the government's Vision 2020 was also aimed at achieving a balance in life in this world and the hereafter.

Dr Mahathir, who is chairman of the Kelantan Umno Liaison Committee, said Umno's policies were not confined to the hereafter but also encompassed responsibilities in this world so that other people would not look down on Muslims. -- more.

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Mahathir - Muslims 2 (last) Kota Baharu

However, he said, certain people interpreted Islam as a religion which only provided for the hereafter.

He called on the people to counter allegations hurled at the federal government that Vision 2020 was only for life in this world.

Dr Mahathir said it was the general opinion that Muslims and Islamic countries were unable to face up to the modern era because many Islamic countries lagged behind and were dependent on and sought the assistance of non-Islamic superpowers.

He said Islamic countries today still had to depend on assistance from non-Islamic countries when at one time they monopolised all disciplines of knowledge.

Superpowers looked down on Islamic countries because they were weak, inefficiently administered and were not peaceful, he added. -- Bernama

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