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A DEVELOPED SOCIETY THAT DOES NOT OPPRESS, SAYS PM

Mahathir-developed

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ALOR SETAR, March 30 (bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight Malaysia wants to achieve the status of a developed nation to show that progressive Muslims do not oppress the weak.

+We do not want to act like some races who are developed but like to oppress the weak,+ he said when breaking fast with the people at Masjid Kampung Bukit Tinggi, Kepala Batas, here.

He said that working for material progress was just as important as working for benefits in the Hereafter because without material development the Muslims would be oppressed.

+If we only give priority to the Hereafter, it is an irresponsible act,+ he said, adding that the weak Muslims would not be able to promote the religion and protect other oppressed Muslims. -- more

▼30/03/23-27MST

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Mahathir-developed 2 (last) Alor Setar

The Prime Minister said that to achieve progress, the Muslims must be trustworthy. He regretted that there were still untrustworthy people in the society.

+There are people who receive a salary from the government but like to take long leave ostensibly to do missionary work. This is not right, not trustworthy. If one wants to do missionary work, do it with one's own money,+ he said.

He said students who were trustworthy would also work hard.

Dr Mahathir said other societies had a very low opinion of the Muslims now because there were still many Muslims who were weak and depended on those who were developed and rich.

He said the people should be thankful because in Malaysia they enjoyed many blessings and did not face hardship like some Muslims in other countries.

Present were the Prime Minister's wife, Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali and Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff.

The Prime Minister and his wife later left for Kuala Lumpur. -- Bernama

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