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Mahathir - Islam

GOVERNMENT WANTS TO MOULD A MUSLIM COMMUNITY WHICH IS CONSCIOUS OF ITS RELIGION

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JITRA, Dec 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government wants to concentrate on moulding an Islamic community which is more conscious of its responsibilities to its religion.

+An Islamic community that is not only conscious of its responsibility to one self but' also to Islam, society at large, the country and the Islamic World,+ he added.

+We not only have to be concerned with piety but also acquire knowledge and have the strength. to help defend Muslims anywhere;. they maybe, + he said when opening a seminar for the Kubang Pasu District Mosque officials at the Masjid Al-Aqla here.

He said there was yet no Muslim country which had the strength and ability to become a superpower and the reason being Muslims still had a narrow interpretation of their religion. -- more

17/12/13-42MST

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Mahathir-Islam 2 Jitra

Dr Mahathir said there was still much to be done to enhance the progress of Muslims who generally were behind in certain fields of knowledge which could provide them with strength in the economic, political and military fields.

+If we want to go to war and defend ourselves we need to have aid to buy weapons from others, that is if they are willing to sell, if not we'll become the victims because we are unable to defend ourselves.+

+Because of this when the Bosnians are attacked so viciously, slaughtered and raped, we cannot do anything,+ he said.

He said one of the weaknesses of Muslims was that many of them did not know about history and because of that they were still doing things that could weaken them such as by fighting among themselves, being not united and resorting to all kinds of ways to disrupt the Ummah.

+This has happened in history and we are still repeating it,+ he said.

The Prime Minister said the government would concentrate on efforts to increase knowledge among Muslims and he hoped that Muslims would not assume that the government need only spend on building mosques, suraus, holding kindergarten and religious classes. -- more

17/12/14-29MST

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Mahathir Islam 3 (last) Jitra

+What is important for Muslims is that expenditure to ensure efficiency of Muslims in all fields.+

+If we send our children to study to become engineers, doctors, architects and in other such fields it is also part of efforts to defend Islam and Muslims,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir then held a closed door meeting with kadis from all over Kedah at the Kubang Pasu District Religious Affairs Office here. -- Bernama

17/12/14-30MST