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EQUIP SELF WITH NOBLE VALUES, SAYS MAHATHIR

Mahathir-Prophet

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 9, (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Muslims should strive to emulate the noble values of Prophet Muhammad to strengthen themselves morally and mentally to achieve excellence in life.

The qualities of the Prophet, like truth, honesty, evangelism and wisdom, were important ones for achieving success and history had attested to this, he added.

+If these four values are practised in our everyday life, I am confident we can achieve excellence in all areas of life,+ he said when launching the national-level Prophet Muhammad birthday celebrations here.

About 16,000 Muslims flooded the Merdeka Square to take part in the celebrations being held for the first time since 1979.

Dr Mahathir said the four noble values were the cornerstones of the government administration. -- more

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Calling on community leaders, administrators and professionals to strive to be like the Prophet in all their deeds, he said the noble values would also help prevent Muslims from being influenced by negative values and cultures.

+Modern technology, like satellites, allow what is happening in the outside world to reach our homes... to fight this, we cannot make rules to prevent others from spreading their bad values among us,+ he added.

In this aspect, practise of the Prophet's noble and high values would act as a barrier and a filter to protect Muslims from negative influence, he said.

Dr. Mahathir also touched on the lack of unity among Muslims which he said would hamper their progress.

He said: +Those who do not value unity are clearly concerned only with themselves... they only highlight a group identity and topics which are individualistic and transient. -- more

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+This is a disease which is hard to treat in the Islamic community today. If such matters continue to dominate us, then larger issues at hand can never be solved.+

Dr Mahathir urged Muslims in the country to focus on religious development and cast aside elements which could cause disunity.

Muslims also needed to have an open mind, a strong desire to progress and accumulate knowledge, resilience and competitiveness, he said.

+If Muslims still do not want or cannot meet the tide of development, then they will forever remain weak, be exploited and eventually be separated by their religion,+ he added. -- Bernama

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