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Mahathir-Islam

PROJECT ISLAM AS A SUCCESSFUL RELIGION, SAYS MAHATHIR

PETALING JAYA, Jan 30⁹³ (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today efforts should be made to show that Muslims are successful and fair people.

He said that it should be proved to Non-Muslims that if they live in a majority Muslim country ruled by Muslims, they would not be deprived of their rights.

The government would show that in a country where Muslims rule, the non-Muslims would not be oppressed, he said in a dialogue session with participants of the three-day Seventh International Conference of the World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY), which ended here today.

Dr Mahathir said that the government would let non-Muslims learn to understand that Islam means justice and progress.

He said that although the approach taken by the government would take a long time, what was important was that the non-Muslims would ultimately understand Islam. -- more

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Mahathir-Islam 2 (last) Petaling Jaya

The Prime Minister said the reason the government established the Malaysian Institute of Islamic Understanding (IKIM) was to tell the non-Muslims that Islam was not equated with terrorism or oppression but a way of life that would be fair to everyone.

He said Muslims must remember that there would be situations where they were the minority in a country ruled by non-Muslims.

"When we are the minority, we do not like a government of non-Muslims being unfair to us and if we expect non-Muslims to be fair to Muslims, we ourselves need to be fair," he said.

Dr Mahathir said there were those who felt that if Muslims were in the majority, they should force others to accept their wishes.

However, he said if the Muslims do that, they would receive negative reaction from the non-Muslims and an even worse image of Islam would be created. -- Bernama

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