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Mahathir-administration

MUSLIM-LED ADMINISTRATION IN MALAYSIA SHOULD BE A PROOF, DR MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, June 3, (Bernama) -- The government which is led by Muslims in multi-religious Malaysia has to show all quarters that its administration, based on the concept and principles of Islamic justice, is truly fair.

If there was a perception today that Islam was extremist or cruel, the reason was not that Islam was cruel but because there were Muslims who, when in power, became arrogant and did not abide by the teachings of the Quran and the sayings of the Prophet, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"Muslims who are in power, judges and Muslim administrators in Malaysia should not be arrogant because of their power and should not forget Islamic principles of justice," he said when opening the "Islamic and Justice" Conference organised by the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (Ikim) here.

The Prime Minister said that it was important that the administration in Malaysia led by Muslims, prove that their rule was fair to all, was non-partisan and non-oppressive.

He said that it was the responsibility of all Muslims to correct the wrong image of Islam caused by extremists and deviationist groups who had given a negative image of the religion and its followers. -- more

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Dr Mahathir said that if today countries and races, such as the Serbs and the Jews, dare and able to suppress and terrorise, the reason was because the Islamic countries were all weak.

He said that the Quranic teachings on the preparation for defence were not heeded.

"Their administration is often unfair and fail to create peace and order vital for the development of knowledge, efficiency and wealth, all of which are needed for attaining strength and respect," he said.

Hence, he said, before Muslims blame others, they should question themselves on their Islamic practices, especially in respect of ensuring fair administration.

"If Islamic justice is not evident and is difficult to be accepted by all, then we are partly to be blamed," he said.

Therefore, it was important not only to deliberate on Islamic justice but also to prove that the concept and the principle of justice could ensure righteousness and create a harmonious society, the Prime Minister said. -- more

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Dr Mahathir said that legal history had proven that the process of making laws into statutory legislations was initiated and implemented by Muslims.

He said that this process had helped Islamic laws become more accurate and structured. But it should be noted that since the process of making Islamic laws into statutory legislations were done by people, who were not immune to imperfections, adjustments and corrections on these documents need to be made from time to time depending on time and place.

"In this way, laws which were based on the Quran and the sayings of the Prophet would be applicable at all times," he said.

The Prime Minister said that crimes changed with time and in this modern time, there were subtle and complex commercial crimes which were difficult to detect and determine.

He said that if no efforts were made to identify these crimes and determine the appropriate penalty, consistent with religious teaching, then such crimes would engulf society.

According to Dr Mahathir, efforts should be made so that the country's legal system was not inconsistent with the concept and principles of justice found in Islam. -- Bernama

MSZ AHH RM

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