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Mahathir-Islam

MUSLIMS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES, SAYS MAHATHIR

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ALOR SETAR, Jan 13 (Bernama) -- Muslims should prepare themselves for war, not to seek conquests, but to be able to defend themselves when attacked, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said that making preparations for self defence was part of the teachings of Islam.

"If during the time of the Prophet Muslims had to have horses and swords, in the present time horses and swords alone are not enough and instead Muslims must have money and wealth and adequate knowledge so that we can have fighter jets, armoured vehicles and warships," he said when opening the Darul Aitam Walmasakin Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra orphanage and Kedah Perkim's Musalla Usmani at Lorong Seri, Jalan Langgar, here.

Unfortunately, he said, the majority of the 1,000 million Muslims in the world were now living in countries that were weak and were still incapable of defending themselves. -- More

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As such, due to their own weaknesses, many Muslims were oppressed, tortured, raped and murdered because they were not capable of defending themselves as in Bosnia-Herzegovina and unfortunately not even one Muslim nation was able to help them or to persuade the world body to help them.

According to Dr Mahathir, the Muslims in this world were weak because they did not adhere fully to the true teachings of Islam and were at loggerheads and preoccupied with minor issues.

"We are always in disagreement and regard others less Muslim than us, against us and in enmity with us. The number of Muslims killed by Muslims is more than the number killed by the enemies of Islam, the non-Muslims," he said.

The Prime Minister said that the discord among Muslims also occurred in Malaysia to the extent that some parties were questioning the faith of others and setting up political parties merely in the interest of the party and not to strengthen the religion.

According to him, such a situation also occurred in other Muslim countries like Egypt where there were extremists who were out to weaken the Egyptian government. -- more

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Mahathir-Islam 3 Alor Setar

He said that these extremists murder tourists to frighten them away whereas their actions could result in weakening the country which was very dependent on revenue from tourism.

Dr Mahathir was however thankful that Malaysia was peaceful although 42 per cent of its population was made up of non-Muslims.

In this respect, the Prime Minister called on the people to learn a lesson from the fall of the Islamic empire in Spain which was similar to the situation in the country in terms of its large non-Muslim population.

He said that the Muslims in Spain had been chased to Morocco and some were forced to embrace Christianity after ruling for 800 years when its administration no longer exercised tolerance against non-Muslims resulting in a rebellion and the Muslims became weak due to disagreement with each other.

As such, the people in the country should exercise tolerance and consideration and not to discriminate against the non-Muslims, he said. -- more

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He also said that the objective of the setting up of Perkim was not merely to convert non-Muslims but to provide them with an understanding on Islam.

Dr Mahathir said that Muslims should provide good examples if they want followers of other religions to respect the religion.

The Darul Aitam Walmasakin Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Building costing RM750,000 was built in March 1991 and was completed eight months later. It houses a hostel for orphans, a surau, a canteen, a library and the Kedah Perkim building.

The construction of the orphanage was suggested by the first Prime Minister, the late Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, who was a former Perkim president. He had provided the land for the construction of the building.

Thirty-six orphans between the ages of 8 and 12 have been staying at the hostel since January last year. The Musalla Usmani surau, which was recently completed, can accommodate 400 people. -- more

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At the function, the Prime Minister received donations from the public on behalf of the orphanage.

Among them was a Kuala Lumpur businessman, Encik Zainal Osman Mohamad, who presented two vans worth RM90,000. He also pledged to pay the salary of the two van drivers and the maintenance of the vehicles.

Others are corporate leader Tan Sri Azman Hashim and a Kedah businessman, Haji Izhar Haji Sulaiman, who each donated RM100,000. A Sarawak businessman, Datuk Ting Pek Khiing, and the Sarawak State Mosque Authority donated RM250,000.

Among those present were Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, Perkim President Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud who is Sarawak Chief Minister, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Othman and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister's Department Haji Othman Abdul. -- Bernama

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