

♥24/02/18-50MST

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Mahathir - progress

WE WANT TO PROVE THAT ISLAMIC NATION CAN PROGRESS, MAHATHIR

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LANGKAWI, Feb 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants the people to preserve peace and prosperity to prove to the world that an Islamic nation can progress.

He said at present the general views were that an Islamic nation was backward, dirty, and plagued with problems.

"But in Malaysia, we want to prove that an Islamic nation can achieve greater progress than the non-Islamic countries," he said after breaking the fast at Masjid Al-Hana, Kuah, here.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia would succeed if "we acquire the necessary knowledge and administer the country well."

He said in this way, Islam would be more respected by all sectors.

"This is our objective in working hard to develop our country," he said.--more

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♥24/02/21-38MST

CNS8373

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Mahathir - progress 2 (last) Langkawi

The Prime Minister said so far Malaysia had achieved good progress but there was still a lot more to be done to realise greater achievement that could ensure the integrity of Islam and the nation.

He reminded the people to be grateful that they could perform their religious obligations well, saying that in some countries the Muslims could not fast as they did not have enough food and were always under attack by the enemies.

Mahathir said the Muslims in Malaysia were well off and many of them were able to perform the pilgrimage to Mecca.

He wanted them to carry out their religious obligations peacefully and not to cause any problem to the nation.

Present at the function were Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid and State Assemblyman for Langkawi Datuk Abu Bakar Tajb.

Mahathir, who arrived here this evening, left for home (Kuala Lumpur) tonight. --Bernama

KHY OS

♥24/02/22-16MST