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DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AIMED AT ENHANCING IMAGE OF ISLAM

BUTTERWORTH, Nov 24 (Bernama) -- Efforts by the country's leaders to bring progress in all fields as well as establishing cooperation and understanding with other countries will help correct the negative image of Islam among people in the West, said Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi.

"That is why in Malaysia, we want to prove to non-Muslims that Islam also teaches its followers to strive for success in all fields," he told reporters after opening a forum on Islamic affairs Paya Keladi, Kepala Batas near here last night.

The forum was jointly organised by Radio Television Malaysia (RTM), Islamic Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department (Baheis) and Kepala Batas Umno Division.

Abdullah said that because of this Malaysia was now regarded by other countries as a model Islamic country.

In his speech, he said Malaysia under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was trying to bring greater progress to the Muslims.

"We want to develop science and technology, an area in which Islam had contributed to world's civilisation," he said. -- BERNAMA

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