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Mahathir-Maulidur

MUSLIMS URGED TO UPHOLD TRUE ISLAMIC TEACHINGS

KUALA LUMPUR, July 28 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged Muslims in the country to ensure that their lifestyle and values are based on true Islamic teachings.

The Prime Minister said lifestyles and practices that violated Islamic principles should be avoided as they do not benefit the religion and its believers.

Such practices will cause the followers to remain backward, he said in his message in the souvenir programme of the national-level Maulidur Rasul gathering at Stadium Negara here.

Dr Mahathir said upholding true Islamic teachings would enable the country to achieve greater success.

The Prime Minister said it was not enough that love for Prophet Muhammad be shown through speeches and celebrations alone, adding that Muslims should emulate the Prophet especially his noble qualities.

The noble qualities included self-confidence and courage which contributed to Islam spreading to the whole world in spite of various obstacles, he said.

Dr Mahathir said Prophet Muhammad also put the interests of the followers above those of his own and his family.

The Prophet's determined and hardworking lifestyle could be seen from the work he did which included as an animal breeder in his younger days, a businessman in his youth and finally as a preacher calling on the people to serve God.

Prophet Muhammad had succeeded in correcting the shortcomings in the society then and this led to the birth of a fair and strong society that served as an example to the entire world, Dr Mahathir said.

Meanwhile, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman, in his speech at the gathering, said good morals among Muslims must be moulded from an early stage.

"Character is something that can be moulded and must be moulded," he said, adding that it must begin at home.

Abdul Hamid said the society's social responsibility in moulding noble qualities differed according to their respective roles.

He said characteristics such as hatredness, dishonesty, untrustworthiness and unsympathetic feelings towards others were signs of moral decadence that would destroy oneself and the society.

-- BERNAMA

RAZ SK