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Mahathir-Hijrah

PRIME MINISTER URGES MUSLIMS TO IMPROVE THEMSELVES

KUALA LUMPUR, May 18 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged Malaysian Muslims to continue with their efforts at self-improvement.

In his Maal Hijrah 1417 message, he said they should also strive to bring progress to themselves by acquiring knowledge and being more efficient and overcoming weaknesses.

If they did not do this they would have to be dependent forever on other people, he said.

Malaysian Muslims should realise that the Ummah in the world was still weak and if they remained in this situation others would take advantage of this to control and have dominion over them, he said.

From the economic aspect, many Muslim countries were still dependent on the non-Muslim world for their needs and from the social aspect, many Muslims were still far behind and politically they still belonged to factions and were fighting among themselves, he said.

Dr Mahathir said this was among the factors which allowed the enemies of Islam to allege that the religion had resulted in backwardness.

"We have seen Muslims in certain countries being victimised by Islam's enemies such as in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chechnya, Palestine and Lebanon. In these places Muslims had been attacked without any limit or compassion."

Hundreds and thousands of Muslims had been killed in vain without being in the least able to defend themselves and Muslims in these countries had been oppressed not only by the enemies of Islam but also by the big powers in the West, he said.

Ostensibly in the name of justice, Muslims had been driven away from their country and home and from their families and had been humiliated, Dr Mahathir said.

There were also Muslim countries which had lost their sovereignty and their economies and land had indirectly come under foreign powers and they had lost their freedom to trade or produce their own goods.

The Prime Minister said Malaysian Muslims had no desire to see the Ummah and Islam being humiliated and played around.

What was happening to Muslims elsewhere should serve as a lesson to Muslims in this country, he added.

In conjunction with Ma'al Hijrah, Muslims should resolve to improve themselves so that such misfortunes elsewhere would not befall them, he said. -- BERNAMA

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