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Hamid-Deviant

ISLAM SPREAD BY NON-MUSLIMS AND DIVERGING VIEWS A CHALLENGE TO IT

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 11 (Bernama) -- Misconceptions about Islam, spread by non-Muslims and the dissenting views of the various Islamic sects, are among the challenges faced by the Muslim community in the present information technology era.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said if unchecked, the confusion that may be created among Muslims, arising from such inaccurate and divergent views, could lead to disaster.

"Muslims must be aware of this... For instance, the Internet which cannot be censored, reaching the homes of Muslims," he told reporters after closing the national seminar on Information Technology in Islamic Education here today.

Dr Abdul Hamid said that the strong faith and belief of Muslims had now become more essential besides the need to muster the information technology for the benefit of Islamic education.

He said that a committee of religious experts had been set up by the Malaysian Islamic Development Department (Jakim) to counter the wrong information, through the Pusat Islam homepage.

Abdul Hamid said Islamic educationists should explore ways to benefit from the information technology, to spread knowledge while at the same time educating and helping the younger generation develop their inner strength to face challenges of the technology era.

Asked on the slight confusion over the "aurat" issue among Muslims, Abdul Hamid said the Islamic views on the aurat was clear and there was no reason for the matter to be debated.

He said this was what Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told the recent Umno general assembly.

Abdul Hamid said when implementing the Islamic laws, it should be done gradually and not by force.

Some 100 teachers and lecturers attended the three-day seminar.

-- BERNAMA

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