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KING FAISAL AWARD TO PM AN HONOUR TO MALAYSIA, SAYS IKIM

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 16 (Bernama) -- The Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (Ikim) has described the award of the 1997 King Faisal International Prize to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as a great honour to Malaysia.

Ikim Director-General Datuk Dr Ismail Ibrahim said the award, for the Prime Minister's service to Islam, was appropriate and in line with the vision and implementation of Islamic development policies in Malaysia under Dr Mahathir's leadership.

"The institute is very proud of the selection of the Prime Minister," he said in a statement.

The announcement on the award was made yesterday by Prince Bandar bin Saud bin Khaled Al-Saud, the secretary-general of the King Faisal Foundation, who informed the Prime Minister in Los Angeles by telephone.

The prize carries with it a certificate, a commemorative 200gm gold medallion and a cash award of SR750,000 (RM500,000).

Dr Ismail said Islam in Malaysia developed systematically through a dynamic and moderate approach parallel to the development of knowledge, science, technology and economy.

This shows that Islam is a way of life which is complete and not in conflict with modern development and changes based on the universal values of Islam, he said. -- BERNAMA

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