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Sarji-Media

MALAYSIA URGED TO HELP TO CORRECT NEGATIVE PORTRAYAL OF ISLAM

KUALA LUMPUR, April 27 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has been urged to pioneer efforts to establish a media network that is capable of correcting the negative portrayal of Islam by the western media.

The call was made at the international symposium on the Muslim World and Global Cooperation here, Institute of Islamic Understanding, Malaysia (Ikim) chairman Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid said today.

He said the symposium participants were of the opinion that Malaysia should initiate the move to reorientate the thinking of the world community which had been fed with negative reporting on Islam by the Western media, much of which is non-Muslim controlled .

"Most of the participants felt that Malaysia can lead the other countries to correct the negative portrayal of Islam through the media because we have the expertise to do so," he told reporters after attending the closing ceremony of the three-day symposium which was organised by Ikim and Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies.

The symposium, opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Friday, was attended by 150 participants comprising politicians, corporate figures, government officers and journalists from several countries.

"Most of the participants were of the opinion that the Muslim world is not given a fair coverage by the non-Muslim controlled media because of their lack of understanding on Islam or because they deliberately wanted to do so," Sarji said.

He said the participants believed Malaysia could take the lead because the country had a wide exposure and a deep understanding in the field.

On the Islamic economic concept which was also discussed at the symposium, Sarji said there was a proposal for a study to be done on successful Muslim countries which could effectively develop Islam through their economy.

The participants cited Malaysia's success in practicing the Islamic economic concept through the setting up of the Islamic banking system, Islamic securities, the Pilgrims and Fund Management Board (Tabung Haji) Takaful Insurance and the International Islamic University.

"They also proposed for an exchange of young entrepreneurs, academicians and youths between Muslim and non-Muslim countries to provide them the opportunity to have a deeper understanding on religious tolerance and multiracial social interactions," Sarji said.

The role of women in the context of national development was also discussed and the participants believed that women should be given appropriate roles in national development, he added. --BERNAMA

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