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Maal - round-up

AGONG AND DR MAHATHIR ATTEND MAAL HIJRAH GATHERING

KUALA LUMPUR, April 28 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad attended the national-level Maal Hijrah celebration marking the Islamic new year at Pusat Islam here today.

The celebration, held on a moderate scale to encourage prudence in the current economic crisis, was attended by 1,300 Muslims.

Also present were Cabinet ministers, members of the diplomatic corps and Department of Islamic Advancement director-general Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin.

No Maal Hijrah awards were presented this year.

In PERLIS literary figure Nahmar Jamil was among four recipients of the Tokoh Maal Hijrah Award.

He and the others received the award from the Raja of Perlis at a ceremony in Kangar.

Nahmar, 60, or Na'man Rawi had been a writer of Islamic articles for more than 40 years.

The other recipients were the lecturer at the Institut Pengajian Tinggi Islam Perlis, Ahmad Jusoh, 56, also known as Ahmad Libya, assistant administrative director of the Yayasan Islam Perlis, Taib Hassan, 63 and former member of the Perlis Fatwa Council Ustaz Saad Ismail, 73.

Five mosques received the "Best Mosque" Award -- Masjid Rahmaniah, Kuala Perlis, Masjid Padang Melangit, Masjid Sentua, Masjid Panggas and Masjid Sungai Korok.

In KELANTAN, the Sultan advised Muslims to be sincere and united.

A united Muslim community would be able to overcome negative tendencies and be in a position to resolve the economic problems, he said at the Ma'al Hijrah 1419 celebrations at the Masjid Ismail Petra in Kubang Kerian near Kota Baharu.

The Raja Perempuan of Kelantan and Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat were also present.

Meanwhile noted local book translator Datuk Yusoff Zaky Yaacob was named this year's Kelantan Tokoh Ma'al Hijrah.

In SARAWAK, Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Ahmad Zaidi Adruce Muhammaed Noor joined 5,000 Muslims to celebrate the state-level Maal Hijrah marking the Islamic new year at the Masjid Jamek at Petra Jaya near Kuching.

Also present at the gathering were his wife Datuk Patinggi Toh Puan Rosmiati, Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud and muslim state cabinet ministers.

In PERAK, Sultan Azlan Shah urged Muslims during the current period of economic turmoil to re-evaluate themselves and recall their past doings.

He said Muslims should draw up strategies and programmes well to ensure that their actions did not worsen the situation.

Each bad occurrence was the result of mistakes of Man itself, he said at the state level Maal Hijrah celebrations in Ipoh.

The Raja Perempuan of Perak Tuanku Bainun, the Raja Muda, Raja Di Hilir and Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib were also present.

Haji Md Hisham Anang, 71, was named the Perak Tokoh Maal Hijrah while the Masjid As Shukriah, Felda Ijok was selected as the best mosque and Perak Hanjoong Cement as the best factory.

Md Hashim is the mudir of the Madrasah Irsyaadiah, Batu 26, Bagan Datoh.

In TERENGGANU, the Sultan urged the people to instill in themselves the spirit of struggle and be ready to make sacrifices for their own wellbeing and that of the community and nation.

The present economic downturn was a test from Allah and hence the people should spend wisely, practise thrift and do more savings and investment, he said at the state level Maal Hijrah celebrations at the Kolej Ugama Sultan Zainal Abidin (Kusza) in Kuala Terengganu.

Present at the function were the Tengku Ampuan Besar, Yang DiPertuan Muda of Terengganu and Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad.

Wan Mokhtar also addressed the gathering.

In KEDAH, the Sultan urged Muslims to further strengthen their unity and be prepared to face the problems and obstacles that might emerge in the new year particularly when the country was facing economic problems.

In practising the Maal Hijrah spirit, any attitude which was not line with Islamic teachings should be discarded, he said when launching the Maal Hijrah celebrations at Wisma Darul Aman in Alor Setar.

In SABAH, Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai launched the state level Maal Hijrah celebrations at Wisma Majlis Agama Islam Sabah (MUIS) in Kota Kinabalu.

Chairman of the celebrations organising committee Datuk Pandikar Amin Mulia in his speech at the function urged Muslims to strengthen their unity and help the government in its economic recovery efforts.

He hoped people would heed the government's advice and be thrifty.

In NEGERI SEMBILAN, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Isa Adul Samad said Muslims must excel in all fields so that they would not be left behind now and in the 21st century.

He said Muslims should free themselves from all forms of colonialism because at present even though many Islamic countries were independent still many more were under the colonial yoke in several areas including the economic sector.

Appropriate preparations should be made for the flight into the 21st century, he said at the Ma'al Hijrah celebrations at the Pusat Dakwah Islamiah, Paroi.

At the function, the Regent of Negeri Sembilan Tunku Naquiyuddin Tuanku Jaafar handed over certificates, special robes, holy books and cash of RM2,000 to religious teacher Haji Ali Musa, 73, who was named the Negeri Sembilan Tokoh Ma'al Hijrah.

In JOHOR, Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman urged Muslims to unite to ensure the wellbeing of the Ummah and the country which was facing a difficult economic situation.

To ensure economic recovery, it was everyone's responsibility to be thrifty, avoid wasteful expenditure and increase savings and investment, he said at the Maal Hijrah celebrations at the Kompleks Islam in Johor Baharu City.

Chairman of the Smallholders Association of Malaysia Datuk Ahmad Arshad, 77, was named the Johor Tokoh Ma'al Hijrah 1418.

-- BERNAMA

AZ RAM AAM