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Mahathir-Islam

MAKE ISLAM A WAY OF LIFE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, July 6 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that if the Muslims now feel that they are being pressured, humiliated and colonised directly or indirectly, it is because they have not made Islam a way of life.

"If today we Muslims are no longer successful, are left behind, weak and colonised by others, the reason is that we have not made Islam a way of life," the prime minister said when launching the Maulidur Rasul celebration to mark Prophet Muhammad's birthday at Pusat Islam, here.

He said that because their way of life was not entirely Islamic but was confined to certain matters only, they had not achieved the happiness they should.

"Our situation now is very different from that of the Muslims during the early centuries when they were successful in conquering the world not only physically but also mentally," he said.

He said that as they celebrate the prophet's birthday, Muslims should remind themselves that their practice of Islamic teachings was not comprehensive.

He said there were those who felt that to practise the Islamic way of life, Muslims must make certain prayer rituals.

"They will say that we will live happily if we enhance the observance of certain rituals. They say such rituals will ensure us a place in the hereafter, though not in the world. The world is for other people. The hereafter is for us. Hence, regard worldly efforts as secular, not Islamic, and reject all of them," he said.

The prime minister said Islamic teachings under Prophet Muhammad were not confined to certain rituals only and if they were, they could not be become a way of life, he said.

"Is it sufficient for Muslims to only pray and spend all their time on certain rituals? Can Muslims live well if they don't know how to plant, rear animals, fish and produce food on a large scale to feed the millions of Muslims?, he said.

"Don't Muslims have to command and develop medical and health knowledge? Don't Muslims have to command all knowledge that can help save and defend the Muslims and Islamic nations?"

Dr Mahathir said many Muslims regarded Islam solely as stock to prepare for death or for the hereafter.

Unfortunately this might not be enough because they had left out a big part of the Islamic teachings in the Quran.

"Where is our place in the hereafter if we only practise part of the Islamic teachings? Are we not at fault if we ignore, even reject the role demanded of us in the world?", he added.

Dr Mahathir said that the Quran repeatedly mentioned the environment, the hills, clouds and the rain that fell to earth.

"But seldom do the ulama explain these things as if there are some Islamic teachings in the Quran that are important and some that can be ignored," he said.

He said no emphasis was given to these matters like that given to the Islamic laws, sexual and women issue and others.

The prime minister said Muslims could not hope to succeed without hard work and the spirit of not giving up.

"We must work harder than Prophet Muhammad because we are not the

chosen prophet," he said.

Islam taught its followers to accept any hardship, he said, adding: "Not all ambitions and dreams can be achieved in the wink of an eye. The effort and determination must continue until success is attained."

He said the current economic downturn had taught Muslims to be more calm and to act positively and with vision.

He said they were thankful because the situation in Malaysia was not as bad as that in other countries which had experienced riots, war and natural disasters.

"At least the hardship we face now makes us realise Allah's greatness and to pray to him to restore everything to normal," he said.

Present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Othman and several other ministers.

-- BERNAMA

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