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Muslims must avoid extremist view: PM

Kamarul Yunus

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Muslims should isolate themselves from the influence of the so-called Islamic extremists and those who abused mosque for self interest to prevent the Islamic community from being weakened.

"Mosques are built for the benefit of the Muslims but there are certain quarters who abused mosques for their self interest and to create disunity among the Muslims in the country.

"We must get rid of them by whatever means," Dr Mahathir said at the launching of the RM8.3 million Bukit Aman mosque, which is located at the Royal Malaysian Police headquarters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The Prime Minister said it was obvious that these irresponsible people had other priorities, including political motive which could destroy the Muslim community.

In some places, he said the mosques are being used to incite Muslims to cause disharmony in the country, which he described as contrary to the true Islamic teachings and principles.

"Such practice should be prevented from spreading," he said, adding these were some of the reasons why Muslims are weaker and not on par in terms of achieving civilisation than those of the other religions.

He also reminded policemen, who are Muslims, to ensure they follow the true Islamic teachings.

"The police are important to the security of the country. If they do not follow true Islamic teachings, the country's security will be at stake," he added.

Dr Mahathir said although there are Muslims who were oppressed by other religions such as in Kosovo and Bosnia Herzegovina, Muslims themselves will be weaker if they do not practice true Islamic principles.

"Their (Muslims) actions themselves are the caused of the Muslims to be weak as against other religions," he added.

Dr Mahathir also urged Muslims in the country not to be too fanatic or extreme to reflect themselves to be devoting to Islamic teachings.

Explaining why Muslims should not be too extreme, Dr Mahathir said this would weaken and create disunity among the Muslims.

"In some countries, even the Muslims are being oppressed by the Muslims themselves because of extremism, while in other countries, women are not allowed to participate in the development of Islam. Muslims will lose if they did not utilise the women's capability," he added.

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