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Mahathir-Unity

EFFORTS TO FOSTER UNITY AMONG MUSLIMS REQUIRE AWARENESS, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said efforts to foster unity among Muslims require the awareness and involvement of all parties.

He said religious experts needed to cooperate to provide positive views for the prosperity of the ummah.

"At the same time, the leaders and the people must be responsible and strive to create a harmonious environment, while preventing the outbreak of any form of uneasiness within the society," he said in a message contained in the souvenir programme of the 41st International Quranic Reciters' Assembly.

Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah officiated the assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre here tonight.

Dr Mahathir said any form of action which could give rise to enmity was regarded as a destructive force which was condemned by Allah.

Twenty-seven qari and 16 qariah from 28 countries are taking part in the assembly this year. Participants from China, Philippines, South Africa and Thailand recited Quranic verses tonight.

He said the choice of the theme for this year's assembly - "Unity Among the Ummah Brings Success" - showed the importance of unity for the progress and success of the Islamic community in this country in particular and of the world in general.

"Even so, of late, Muslims are increasingly exposed to discord which stems from an unwillingness to learn from history, acting in haste and being too emotional.

"Besides that, there are those who enjoy blaming others without being aware of and forgetting their own weaknesses," he said.

Dr Mahathir urged Muslims to strengthen the unity among them while redoubling efforts to develop Malaysia for the glory of the religion, race and the country.

--BERNAMA

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