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Agong-Recital

KING URGES MUSLIMS TO STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 14 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah has urged Muslims to be united and to pool their resources to develop the community and the country to achieve excellence.

He said trivial matters and differences of opinion that benefitted certain individuals or small groups of people should be put aside to achieve the bigger objectives of the Muslims.

"That is why Allah prohibits quarrels among followers as these could weaken the Muslims," he said when opening the 41st International Quranic Reciters' Assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre, here tonight.

Sultan Salahuddin said unity was the main factor for any community in building strength and subsequently strive towards progress and prosperity.

Twenty-seven qari and 16 qariah from 28 countries took part in the assembly this year with the theme "Success Through Unity of Ummah". Malaysia was represented by Che Yahaya Daud from Kelantan and Maznah Awang from Terengganu.

Also present were Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his wife Datin Seri Endon Mahmood. The event was telecast live by Radio Television Malaysia.

The King said the participation of every strata of society including technocrats, bureaucrats, leaders and the rakyat in a united front was crucial in achieving excellence by redoubling efforts and grabbing the opportunities available to progress together guided by Islamic principles.

In line with the rapid progress taking place in the world, the Muslim community could not afford to remain stagnant and move slowly, he said.

He described the International Quranic Reciters' Assembly organised by the Malaysian government every year as significant in fostering unity among Muslim countries.

Sultan Salahuddin said through the assembly, most Muslim countries could participate by sending their representatives to gather at one place and foster closer rapport during the short period here.

Last year, Mohamad Gandom Najad Toosi from Iran emerged as the champion qari while Sapiah Mohd from Malaysia was the champion qariah.

-- BERNAMA

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