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Malaysia-Quran

M'SIA, THE ONLY NATION TO HAVE DUPLICATE OF SAIDINA OTHMAN'S QURAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 17 (Bernama) -- Malaysia recorded yet another history by becoming the first country to keep a duplicate of the Quran which was being read by the Caliph Saidina Othman, when he was killed.

The duplicate, which was recopied exactly from the original Quran kept at the Uzbekistan Islamic Centre in Tashkent, was handed to the Museum and Antiquity Department's Director-General Datuk Dr Kamarul Baharin Buyong by Uzbek calligraphy expert Sheikh Habibullah Ismail Solih, who did the replica himself.

"This is the only duplicate made and presented with the warmth and close relationship that exists between Uzbekistan and Malaysia," said Habibullah at the handing over ceremony for the Quran at the Museum and Antiquity Department, here today.

Habibullah, said he took two years to complete the replica.

The original Saidina Othman's Quran, kept in Tashkent and which still contained the blood following his stabbing, is recognised as one of the Memories of the World by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco).

Dr Kamarul Baharin said the unique and historic duplicate would be exhibited to the public next year after it had been scrutinised.

According to Habibullah, the original bible kept in Tashkent is about 1,400 years old and had the blood stains on several pages.

The original Quran was written on deerskin brought from Kuffa, a small town in Iraq, to Tashkent, (formerly Samarkand) by Muslim General Timurlane after he had invaded Iraq.

Dr Kamarul Baharin said based on reliable sources, presently there are only four copies of the original Quran written and completed during the time of Saidina Othman and they are each kept in the Uzbekistan Islamic Centre in Tashkent, Saidina Hussain mausoleum in Cairo, the Istanbul Islamic Museum and the Topkapi Museum also in Istanbul.

He said several sources during the middle ages stated that the original Quran during the time of Saidina Othman found in Damascus, Medina, Mecca, Kuffa, Homsa and Basra had been lost, and the replica in Cordoba was believed to have sunk in the sea.

He said the Malaysian government's plans to acquire the replica of the Saidina Othman's Quran, which is said to be the oldest in the world, was initiated after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to the Uzbekistan Islamic Centre in Tashkent.

-- BERNAMA

AFY AO