

24 DEC 2000

Mahathir-Wealth

ATTAIN WEALTH TO HELP THE WEAK, DR MAHATHIR TELLS MUSLIMS

ALOR SETAR, Dec 24 (Bernama) -- Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight the government wants Muslims in the country to strive for wealth to help the less fortunate.

The prime minister said the government did not want to see the Muslims poor as this could lead to undesirable consequences.

"We want them to be rich so as to help the poor and be able to build mosques and surau for worship. In this country most of the Muslims who have attained wealth have shared it by helping their fellow Muslims," he said at a breaking of fast with about 1,000 people at Masjid Al-Bukhary in the Al-Bukhary complex, here.

He said Muslims in other countries were oppressed by those who were more developed because of poverty.

"We see many Muslim nations still backward and unpeaceful. The other Muslim countries cannot do anything to protect the oppressed because there is no Muslim country strong enough to protect the weak ones."

As long as this situation prevailed, the Muslims would continue to be oppressed, he said.

Dr Mahathir also said that the institution of the mosque was important in efforts to unite the Muslims because it was where they could meet and foster relations and appreciate the plight of the poor.

He later performed maghrib prayers at the mosque.

Present was Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Raak Syed Zain.

-- BERNAMA

MAN+MZM JK