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Mahathir-Museum

MAHATHIR OPENS EXHIBITION ON PERSIAN MARRIAGE CERTIFICATION

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today opened the "The Sacred Art of Marriage - Persian Marriage Certification from the Qajar Period" exhibition at the Islamic Arts Museum, here.

The exhibition has been specially curated for the Museum and Iran National Archive Organisation (INAO) by Dr Mandana Barkeshli of the museum and will feature nearly 80 certificates of marriage all beautifully illustrated.

The certificates will be shown to the public for the first time, thus making Malaysia its first destination worldwide. It includes wedding vows, details of gifts and also Quranic verses in them.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir said the exhibition was made possible by the willingness of the INAO to lend valuable documents to the museum.

"This has enabled the museum to bring many exhibitions here, for example the Islamic Arts which was proven to be very popular with lots of people, not only Muslims," he said.

On the exhibition, Dr Mahathir said he was glad that he was still able to talk about the sacredness of marriage at a time it was not sacred anymore in many places in the world.

Dr Mahathir said he hoped that the holiness in the union of couples would be revived.

"Marriages should not just be for pleasure alone but for procurement also. Unfortunately, in many parts of the world, it's a source of pleasure," he said.

Dr Mahathir said in many cases, people tend to live together without getting married and have children if they want.

"Sometimes, they only get married after their children are big. They want their children to witness their wedding," he said.

He hoped that the exhibition would enable people to understand the sacredness of marriage.

Some of the certificates in the exhibition are in the form of booklets, while individual manuscripts can be hung on the wall. The practice of transforming marriage documents into beautiful artworks has been a long tradition in Iran.

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