

03 NOV 2000

Mahathir-Islam

MUSLIM UNITY VITAL IN FACING GLOBALISATION

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today unity and understanding among the Muslims are vital to restore the essence of Islam, especially in facing the challenges of globalisation.

The prime minister said that without understanding and consensus among the Muslims, misunderstanding and backwardness would prevail.

It had now been proven by several incidents that the purity of Islam had been abused to achieve certain ends, he said in the souvenir book of the 5th Malaysian Multaqa Ulama, here.

He said the current changes in Islam had been interpreted to suit the aspirations of individuals or their supporters, not to meet the demands of God or the prophet and this had caused confusion and anxiety among the people.

He said the weakness of some Muslims was that they were easily influenced by slogans and anything done in the name of Islam.

"When they are so convinced, they often become so extremist and fanatical in their beliefs that it is difficult to return to the true path of the religion," he said.

He said extremist ideology in whatever form was not something advocated by Islam.

-- BERNAMA

MNY GM JK