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OIC-Mahathir

MUSLIMS MUST PREPARE FOR DANGERS OF GLOBALISATION - DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, June 27 (Bernama) -- Islamic countries must stop squabbling among themselves and prepare for the challenges and dangers of globalisation, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said: "I dare to hope that this meeting of Foreign Ministers of the OIC countries will recognise the danger and challenges posed by globalisation, and recognising them, take the first step towards reducing the divisions between us."

They must focus their attention on the acquisition of knowledge to combat the use of Information Technology used to destroy the values, faith and the remains of the Islamic civilisation, he said in his keynote address at the opening of the 27th session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) here.

Dr Mahathir said: "The solution is with us and between us. We can choose to carry on with our petty rivalries or we can together or even separately turn to face the real threat to Islam."

"It is well within our power and capability to promote and defend the cause of Islam and the Ummah. If we choose not to, we shouldn't blame others. We the Muslims are to blame," he told some 1,000 delegates from 56 Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) member countries.

Although it was too much to expect Muslims to unite suddenly, Dr Mahathir said, "at least we can learn to understand and fear the grave danger that we will face with a borderless world and reduce the divisiveness between us, the divisiveness within and between our countries."

He said Muslims could learn the new sciences and technologies because Islam enjoined upon them to seek knowledge and prepare to defend themselves.

"Enough of us must be assigned to the acquisition of the knowledge and skills of the Information Age to enable us to catch up with our detractors and enemies," he said in a nationwide televised address which was also aired live to at least four countries.

He said, "we are at the beginning of the Information Age of Globalisation. We are not too far behind. We can if we want to catch up now. If we wait they will be too far ahead and it will be too late again."

"It is going to be an uphill task. The opposition to the effort will come from the Muslims themselves, Muslims who fear they will lose their influence and authority over the Muslim ummah if members of their community are more learned," Dr Mahathir said.

Dr Mahathir said, "At this very moment they can, if they want to wipe out the Muslims and countries from the surface of the earth. If they haven't done so, it is not because they care for us."

"This world is not created by Allah for the non-believers only, this world is not created so the believers would be backward, dishonoured and oppressed. This world is for us also," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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