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Mahathir-knowledge

ACQUIRE VARIOUS KNOWLEDGE DEMANDED AS MEMBERS OF SOCIETY, MUSLIMS TOLD

JOHOR BAHRU, May 18 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight urged Muslims to acquire various knowledge demanded of them as members of the society while not forgetting at the same time their personal obligation to the Almighty.

The Prime Minister said that among the "fardu kifayah" knowledge that they must learn included information technology, medicine, economy and weaponry.

He said that if none among them knew or had the knowledge demanded by "fardu kifayah", then the sin would befall all Muslims.

"Muslims must learn to defend themselves and religion from the enemies of Islam," he said when opening a seminar on development of ummah at the Pan Pacific Hotel here.

He said that among the things they needed to defend themselves would be some kinds of weapons such as fighter aircraft and submarines.

Dr Mahathir said that without adequate preparation in terms of weaponry the Muslims might be easy to oppress and regarded as weaklings like what was happening in Palestine.

"All these we must have in order to invent weapons of war so that we can protect country and Muslims," he said.

He also called on Muslims to look back in time when Muslims were advance in knowledge, feared and revered by both the West and East.

However, Dr Mahathir said there were certain people now who believed that Muslims should only learn religious knowledge as knowledge in other fields was secular education and did not guarantee them a place in heaven.

He said students in institutions of higher learning were also believed to be influenced by certain groups that they should deepen their knowledge on Islam by attending religious ceramah, "qiamulai" and "kuliah subuh".

"But the sad thing is that the students who attended the qiamulai were not taught about Islam but taught to hate the government," he said.

As such, he urged the ulama to bring these misguided souls to the true teachings of Islam so that they could together bring progress to other Muslims.

Present at the function were Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaacob.

The two-day seminar, jointly organised by the state government and Institute of Islamic Understand Malaysia (IKIM), is being attended by 550 Umno activists, public and private sector employees, non-government organisation (NGO) representative, undergraduates and professionals.

--BERNAMA

RAM MNY ABG