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`Malaysia capital of Islam'

Firdaus Abdullah

PUTRAJAYA, Tues. - Malaysia can be regarded as the capital of Islam as it is a very successful Islamic nation, led by a visionary Muslim leader who understands the true teachings and requirements of the faith.

Renowned Muslim scholar Shaykh Abdalqadir as-Sufi al-Murabit, who heads the international Islamic dakwah initiative of Murabitun World Wide Movement, also described Malaysians as a lucky community for having Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as their Prime Minister.

The 71-year-old Spanish scholar, a student of the great Islamic scholar/teacher Shaykh Muhammad al-Habib, said Malaysians, particularly the Muslims, should be grateful that a true Muslim and a defender of Islam was their Prime Minister.

"I speak from my heart ...I don't know if you have realised ... how fortunate you are," Shaykh Abdalqadir told a Press conference after a 45-minute meeting with Dr Mahathir at the Prime Ministers office here today.

Abdalqadir and his delegation met Dr Mahathir to share the Prime Minister's vision on the need for a new world currency and to deliberate on the introduction of an Islamic currency (Dinar-gold and Dirham-silver) which could stand as an alternative to the globe-controlling US dollar.

The scholar, who has travelled around the world, enhancing and creating Muslim communities - with particular focus in Europe - said Dr Mahathir was "the only Muslim leader in the world" who saw and understood the evils of the secular currency and banking system and courageously stood against them.

"The man has learned, by years of bitter experience, on how the kafir (non-believers) system is and how at the end of the day it (the secular currency and banking system) is not meant to make you rich, not meant to make you successful but to enslave you and take your achievements from you."

He said that it was not mere currency speculation that pulled the economies of the Third World countries down, but a calculated trick to dominate by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and their backers.

"And your leader saw through their tricks and acted against the laws that have been laid down by the kafir forces of the IMF and the World Bank and saved the day ... and I'm so moved to see this man here who with his humility and simplicity stood against all the forces of the World Bank ... not one Muslim leader has done it."

He went on to say that he regarded the meeting today not with the Prime Minister of Malaysia, but with the only Islamic leader in the world today who had taken on the forces in World Bank, IMF and the paper money system.

Dr Mahathir's courage, he said, was significant.

"The Arabs have failed, Turkey is a prisoner of the United States, but you are free ... anything that is against your Prime Minister is Syiah," he added.

(In this context, Syiah does not refer to belief, but to action of being a separatist or remaining indifferent to efforts towards establishing the Islamic currency).

Abdalqadir has strong words for the Opposition.

"The Islamic party is Syiah because it has no financial policies that are Islamic ... it is perfectly happy with the IMF and the World Bank.

"I saw today that they are discussing an Islamic State ... the issue is

not an Islamic State, the issue is obedience to Allah and all his orders," he added.

Repeatedly praising Dr Mahathir for his vision and belief in the true path of Islam, Abdalqadir said that Muslims worldwide would love to visit Malaysia, particularly Putrajaya, as it reflected the achievements of an Islamic nation which held on to its own agenda based on the true teachings of Islam.

"We must not be the people who attack their leaders. The heart of Islamic brotherhood is loyalty.

"Your Prime Minister is looking forward scientifically and cautiously and working for the introduction of real money and the abolishment of inflation which Islam encourages."

He said the poor and discriminated lot should rally behind Malaysia and Dr Mahathir to correct the wrongs in the world today.

"The principles of debt, as practised in the secular banking system, must be gradually replaced by the real money system (of real value based on gold and silver)," said Abdalqadir.

As envisaged by Dr Mahathir, Abdalqadir's student for 16 years and current leader of the Murabitun Movement, Umar Ibrahim Vadillo, has revived the bimetallic Islamic currency of Dinar and Dirham and is currently promoting it as the single most viable currency for Muslims worldwide.

Meanwhile, as arranged by the Universiti Sains Malaysia, Abdalqadir, who is on a two-week visit, will give a public lecture at the university on Aug 7.