

26 APR 2001

Mahathir-Globalisation

MUSLIMS SHOULD DECIDE ON THE FORM OF GLOBALISATION NEEDED

By: Harlina Samson

DUBAI, April 26 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Muslim countries should together work out the form of globalisation they wanted.

He said Muslims should see themselves as one community instead of referring to themselves as nationals of particular countries.

"We are one ummah," he said during a question and answer session at the Emirates International Forum here today.

Dr Mahathir, on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), earlier delivered a keynote address on "Meeting the Challenges of the 21st Century: Role of Muslim Nations" at the forum.

He said Muslims would have given up on globalisation if they considered themselves as nationals of particular countries.

He stressed that Muslim countries must practice good governance and be dedicated to developing their country.

He said good relations must also be established among Muslim countries and with non-Muslim countries as well.

"There are a lot of injustices in the world...but, venting our frustrations out by being violent will not bring any good at all," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Muslim nations would not be oppressed or bullied if they were strong and attained the same status as developed countries.

On the importance of acquiring knowledge and skills, he said Muslims should not totally reject western education merely because it was secular.

He said modern knowledge and skills were needed to develop a country.

"We have to acquire this (modern knowledge) and allocate a sufficient number of people to acquire the kind of skills that are needed for the development of our country," he added.

-- BERNAMA

HS DC THG