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Mahathir-Culture

NO REASON TO ACCEPT GLOBALISATION OF CULTURE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today there is no reason for Muslims to accept globalisation of culture and have a single set of cultures and values.

He said globalisation was not just about material wealth, trade and businesses but also about culture.

However, he said, as globalisation was an idea from the West, the culture being advocated and promoted was also the Western culture.

"I don't see why we need to accept globalisation of culture. That (the culture) is what differentiates us. God creates us in various races and ethnic groups, why should we be standardised?" he told participants of an international seminar on "The Impact of Globalisation on the Islamic World: Issues and Challenges in the 21st Century", here.

About 140 participants from the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) are attending the three-day seminar organised by the Foreign Ministry and the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) in the Prime Minister's Department.

Fielding questions from the floor, Dr Mahathir said that in the West, the institution of marriage and family was no longer respected and a person who wanted to live with somebody could do so if he wanted to.

This, he said, would ruin the structure of society.

Dr Mahathir said it was culture that differentiated one individual from another of the same race and creed who practised a different culture.

He said that if the people destroyed the culture, the world would be a very boring place as everyone had only one set of cultures.

Dr Mahathir said it was important for Muslims to be aware and conscious of attempts to force the world to have a single culture.

"I think it is very important for us to understand that there are attempts now to force the whole world to have a single culture and a single set of values and to forbid anything else from being practised, and yet they advocate democracy. What is the meaning of democracy if you are given only one choice?," he said.

Earlier, in his keynote address, the prime minister said there was destruction of morality in the materialistic world.

He said that today homosexuality was actively encouraged and in some instances even incestuous relations between siblings and parents and children were tolerated.

It seemed that in the name of human rights, anything was allowed and nothing was barred, he said

"Marriage and families are no longer respected institutions. They are neither formalised nor considered necessary.

"Families are defined as two people or more living together without any recognised marriage ceremony or registration and begetting and rearing children of indeterminate parentage," Dr Mahathir said.

-- BERNAMA

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