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`Instil knowledge, eradicate poverty'

Azran Aziz

KUANTAN, Tues. - Programmes and policies drawn up by the Government for the development of the ummah are parallel to needs and demands stipulated in the Quran.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin, said tonight these included efforts to instil knowledge and eradicate poverty among the people.

Opening the 44th National-level Quran Recital Assembly at the Sultan Ahmad Shah Silver Jubilee Hall on behalf of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, he said the programmes were based on verses of the Quran.

"The Holy Book tells us to read in order to be knowledgeable and so the Government puts in a lot of effort and money in this sector."

Also present were Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, who is the organising chairman, and other State dignitaries.

This year's theme was "Unity, the Catalyst for Ummah Development."

Zainal Abidin said educational infrastructure developed by the Government should not be regarded as a form of wastage.

He said sound knowledge in various fields and disciplines would prepare and gear the ummah in facing all challenges.

"They will not be easily shaken when under pressure. It will make them more resilient," he said in a speech spiced with verses from the Quran.

"We are not only concentrating on worldly affairs. Muslims are told to subscribe to noble values spelt out by the Quran and prepare themselves for the hereafter."

He said Muslims must not stay on the sidelines but should be in the forefront of everything, and the Quran had spelt out ways to achieve this.

The Quran, he said, demanded efforts be made to assist the poor.

These efforts, he said, were aimed at raising the integrity of the Muslims.

Zainal Abidin said the Muslims should imbue verses of the Quran and translate them into their everyday activities.

"This is the reason we organise Quran Recital Assemblies at mukim, district, State, national and international levels, without fail the last 44 years.

"By constantly listening to the verses from the Quran, the impact on the people will be greater. It will prompt them to get a clear understanding of the verses," he said.

Earlier, Adnan said the assembly was one way of uniting Muslims.

"The event should serve as a platform to iron out differences," he said.