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Radio Ikim.fm launched

Ainon Mohd; Sajahan Waheed

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The misconception among the non-Muslims about Islamic teachings could be further corrected by the Institute of Islamic Understanding (Ikim) through its newly established Radio Ikim.fm station.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the station could convey messages on Islamic teachings in a more extensive method to the public.

"The radio would benefit all quarters if the broadcast is conducted smartly without any other interest except to convey information on the true Islamic teachings."

He said this was in line with the Government's objective in establishing Ikim to clear all confusion among non-Muslims about Islamic teachings and to correct misunderstandings among Muslims themselves.

"Ikim has played an effective role in providing information for non-Muslims and in gaining recognition from the international community through the various seminars which it had organised."

Dr Mahathir said this in his speech at the launching of the Radio Ikim.fm at the Ikim headquarters in Langgak Tunku, near here.

He said there were many negative notions regarding Islam spread by certain parties, particularly at the international level, including those linking Islam with criminal acts and violence.

Citing an example, he said, when a building was bombed like the recent case in the United States, the Muslims would be the first to be accused, even if the offence was committed by some other parties.

Regarding the misconceptions among the Muslims, Dr Mahathir said it was a challenge which has to be faced as the Muslims had differing interpretations about Islamic laws.

"Some Muslims only concentrate on certain devotions whereas Islam is a way of life with various activities which must be given equal importance.

"There are also some who practise teachings which deviate from Islam. This could affect the faith of the entire Muslim population in the country, if not checked."

Later at a Press conference, Dr Mahathir said opportunities should be taken to enlighten the non-Muslims about Islam while addressing any international and national forum so that the religion would not be misunderstood or to ensure that they would not be frightened by Islam.

"The non-Muslims always link Islam with terrorist activities and would straightaway condemn Muslims if something happens like one incident in the United States where they accused Muslims of bombing a government building.

"That is why we need to explain whatever we can on the true meaning of Islam."

On whether IKIM radio would clear misconceptions on Islam which include that spread by Pas, the Prime Minister said it would not single out Pas as a specific case.

"But it is wrong for any Muslim to label other Muslims as not Muslims for the purpose of others.

"This is very wrong and there is evidence that because of political interest, Pas purposely misinterprets Islam and this has led to the people believing in their misinterpretation," he added.