

19 OCT 2001
Budget-Islam

RM294.3 JUTA ALLOCATED FOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES TO BENEFIT MUSLIMS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- The government will continue to provide adequate allocation under the Islamic Development Department Malaysia (Jakim) to implement various development programmes for the benefit of the Muslim community, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir, who is Finance Minister, in tabling the 2002 Budget in the Dewan Rakyat, said that a total of RM294.3 million is allocated for the implementation of programmes for the development of family institutions and the provision of social services, greater understanding and assimilation of Islam, educational programmes in religious schools and Al-Quran and Fardhu Ain classes.

He said that the government continues to uphold the understanding and knowledge of true Islam and the development of the Muslim community in this country.

Dr Mahathir said that the government will also continue to implement several development programmes under Jakim which include the building and renovation of mosques and Islamic training complexes, the building of religious schools as well as the development of an information system.

Dr Mahathir said that in line with the desire of the government to meet the required number of Muslims who are able to recite and memorise the Al-Quran, the capacity of the Maahad Tahfiz Darul Quran in Kuala Kubu Baharu will be increased when the second phase of the construction of the Maahad Tahfiz is completed.

He said that the government also intends to implement more programmes on the understanding of the correct teachings of Islam for students in public and private higher learning institutions, among officers and personnel in government as well as in the private sector.

Towards this end, he said, courses will be conducted on strengthening religious beliefs, spiritual development, appreciation of Islam and human development.

He said that the objective of the government is to establish a religiously correct Muslim community and this will only be achieved if there is no deviation by those given responsibility to teach Islam.

"For those who propagate teachings that are against the true teachings of Islam, such as hatred for other Muslims, rejecting brotherhood of Muslims and branding other Muslims as infidels and spreading slanders, the allocation will be terminated," he said.

The allocation provided is for purposes of propagating the knowledge of Islam and not otherwise, he added.

-- BERNAMA
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