

Malaysia a good example for Islamic nations

Nst - 7 MAY 2002

MALAYSIA, seen as one of the most developed Islamic countries in the world, can lead other Islamic nations to progress by sharing its experiences in all aspects, including socio-economic development.

Saying that his country had benefited by learning from Malaysia, Mufti of Lebanon, Al-Sheikh Mohamad Rasveed Raghieb Qabani, said Malaysia should be willing to impart its knowledge and experiences to other developing Islamic nations.

Speaking after meeting Minister in the Prime Minister's

Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin yesterday, Mohamad Rasyeed said Lebanon had succeeded in setting up an organisation similar to the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (Ikim) following his visit to Kuala Lumpur six years ago.

"Malaysia, through its various ministries and agencies, can assist other Islamic countries in many aspects," he said.

Mohamad Rasyeed is leading the Lebanese Darul Fatwa delegation to the conference.

Darul Fatwa is not only responsible in issuing decrees

(fatwa) but also in other matters pertaining to education, health and tithes.

A delegate from Lebanon, Ali Alayli, called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to continue with efforts to uplift the image of Islamic countries.

He said Dr Mahathir was instrumental in promoting the image of Islam worldwide.

Describing the ongoing conference as crucial, he said other Islamic countries were looking forward to more of Dr Mahathir's contributions in forming a stronger Muslim world.

He said Dr Mahathir's contributions in uplifting the image of other Islamic countries was evident from his commitment in solving prevailing issues affecting countries such as Palestine.

Djibouti's Justice and Islamic Affairs Ministry adviser Ali Mohamed Afkada, a first-time visitor to the country, praised Dr Mahathir for the development enjoyed by the nation.

Ali added that Dr Mahathir had made great contributions in promoting brotherhood among Muslims and Islamic nations.