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Seminar-Mahathir

DR MAHATHIR HAS PREPARED NATION FOR FUTURE CHALLENGES

KOTA KINABALU, July 23 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has prepared the nation to achieve rapid progress not only in development but also in the advancement of the people and religion, said the National Fatwa Council Chairman Datuk Dr Ismail Ibrahim today.

In fact, he said some of the things the Prime Minister did had prepared the nation for future challenges.

"The present generation should study the foundation laid by Dr Mahathir and implement it in their daily lives individually or as members of the society," he said when met by reporters after opening a Seminar on Mahathir Thoughts here.

Dr Ismail was elaborating on points he raised in his working paper at the first session of the seminar which was opened by Sabah Finance Minister Datuk Musa Aman.

Citing as an example Dr Mahathir's far-sightedness, he said the September 11 had shaken the Islamic world and only after the event did the countries concerned took steps to defend themselves and project correct image of Islam and so forth.

"But all these, we have done earlier. In fact, Dr Mahathir has made it clear well from the start that the Muslim society should not emerge as a society that is radical, violent, hostile against non-Muslims, backward and so on," he said.

He said that even though a strong foundation had been laid it did not mean that the people should be complacent.

"It is our obligation to come out with something new because the era we live in is ever changing. Like Dr Mahathir whose thoughts are ahead of his time...what others haven't perceived, he has perceived," he said.

Another panel member, Dr Ding Choo Ming, a Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) lecturer, described Dr Mahathir as a prime architect for successfully transforming Malaysia over the past 21 years.

"He has changed the Malaysians perspective of themselves and of other nations towards Malaysia," he said in his working paper on information and communication technology (ICT).

His paper gives focus on the Dr Mahathir's determination to develop the infrastructure for ICT which will open up new business opportunities for Malaysia.

Another speaker at the seminar was the chairman and chief executive officer of KUB Malaysia Bhd, Datuk Hasan Harun.

Meanwhile, Musa in his speech described Dr Mahathir as an interesting leader.

"His success in coming out with innovative ideas and turning them into reality is something to be proud of," he said.

The one-day seminar was jointly organised by the Sabah Language and Literature Council, Umno Religious Bureau and Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP).

-- BERNAMA

JS ABG