

25 OCT 2002

Agong-Assembly

UNITE, DEEPEN KNOWLEDGE ON ISLAM, AGONG ADVISES MUSLIMS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 25 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail tonight called on Muslims to unite and enhance their knowledge and understanding of Islam.

"This is the best way for Muslims to achieve success in all our efforts and to ensure our well-being in this world and hereafter," he said when opening the 44th international-level Quran Reciters' Assembly themed "Together In Appreciating Islam's Beauty."

The King said Islam was a celestial religion with good teachings as evident from the contents of the Al-Quran and Hadith (deeds and sayings of Prophet Muhammad).

He said it was clear from the first revelation of Surah Al'Alaq that knowledge brings development that encompasses economy, science and technology which were crucial for mankind in their daily lives.

He said success attained by a race could not be sustained if the people were divided.

"Unity is very important in preserving progress, excellence and well-being. As such, Allah urges Muslims to be united and avoid divisions," he said.

Realising the dangers of disunity, he said, the Government had and would take appropriate measures in tackling divisions among the people and keep a close watch on elements that could threaten national security.

This was because the undesirable elements were waiting for the opportune time to resort to whatever actions to achieve their evil intentions, he said.

"The government will ensure racial harmony is preserved so that the people can lead a peaceful and tranquil life," he added.

Earlier, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Hamid said Kosovo was participating for the first time in this year's assembly along with 63 other countries.

He said this year's assembly had created history with the biggest ever participation since the reciters' assembly was introduced in 1961.

The encouraging response from Islamic countries showed Malaysia was a model to Muslims worldwide who recognised her as an Islamic State which had progressed far ahead in the journey to honour the integrity and dignity of Islam, said Abdul Hamid, who is also the six-day assembly's main committee chairman.

Three qari (men reciters) and a qariah (woman reciter) from four countries took to the stage tonight to recite the Holy Quran.

They are Abderaouf Ben Slimane Benbouker from Tunisia, Mohd Rizal Hussin of Singapore and South Africa's Igshaan Taliep and Magmooda Taliep.

Present were Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Melaka Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabudin and wife.

-- BERNAMA

SNS HS TS