

26/10/2002

King: Muslims must unite

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KUALA LUPUR, Fri. - The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail tonight called on Muslims to unite and enhance their knowledge and understanding of Islam.

He said better understanding of the teachings of Islam would guide them to better life in this world and the hereafter.

He said the people must refer to the contents of the Quran and Hadith as they served as the perfect reference, relevant to current developments.

"All good teachings are in them, like the stress on gaining knowledge which is an important tool for achieving development in all aspects of life.

"Development will be hampered if the people do not stand as one. Disunity will weaken and destroy the people."

The King said this before opening the 44th International Al-Quran Reciters Assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre here. This year's theme is "Together We Embrace The Beauty Of Islam".

The six-day assembly drew the largest number of participants with 73 of them representing 63 countries, including China, Ivory Coast and Russia.

He said the Government, realising the consequences of disunity, had always been firm and had taken steps to prevent threats and acts that could lead to social instability.

Earlier, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin said more countries were participating for the first time in this year's assembly like Kosovo.

This encouraging response from Islamic countries, he said, showed Malaysia was a model to Muslims worldwide.

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