

17 NOV 2002
Assembly-Kedah (Sultan)
LEARNING SCIENCE, MATHS IS AN OBLIGATION- SULTAN

ALOR STAR, Nov 17 (Bernama) -- The Sultan of Kedah today urged Muslims to learn science and maths as it is a collective obligation or fardhu kifayah for them and they will be rewarded greatly by Allah.

Opening the Kedah State Assembly Budget session, he said the use of English to teach science and maths was timely and would benefit all as English provided access to global information and communication technology (ICT).

He welcomed the Federal Government's move to set up the Northern Region Science Centre at Gunung Keriang near here as this would help Kedah students to advance in the field of science and mathematics.

The Sultan said at present more than 70 per cent of global knowledge was in English and in the case of science 90 per cent of the knowledge was in English.

In this era of global economy and borderless world, good command of English and sound knowledge of mathematics and science would determine Malaysia's competitiveness, he said.

He said in pursuing the objective to make Kedah a developed state by 2010, the people in fact should master not only English but also French, Mandarin and Arabic.

The Sultan advised Muslims in Kedah not to adopt an extremist attitude when championing and spreading Islamic teachings and in strengthening Islamic brotherhood.

The action of a small group of Muslim extremists in this modern world had led to the stereotyping of Muslims as terrorists, which could result in the outflow of investment and reduced number of foreign tourists and ultimately the losers would be the ordinary people and the national economy, the Sultan said.

He urged the people especially the young generation to compete to acquire knowledge to live in this world and for the hereafter as various institutions of learning from primary to tertiary level had been set up by the government.

"I fully support the proposal of the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to introduce national service to create a disciplined society that will love the country," the Sultan said.

He also commended the Kedah contingent to this year's Sabah Sukma (Sukan Malaysia) for winning 17 gold medals among others.

He urged all relevant departments and agencies to continue with their efforts to ensure a progressive rural society as envisaged under the Developed Kedah Action Plan 2010.

The "One Kampung One Product" project has had a positive impact on Kedah and was now being expanded to "One Kampung One Industry" programme to increase the income and raise the living standards of the rural people, he added.

-- BERNAMA
FIZ FMF IAW MAN AAM