

07 JUN 2002

Mahathir-Malays

MALAYS CARRY THE BURDEN OF BECOMING ROLE MODEL FOR MUSLIMS

JOHOR BAHRU, June 7 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the burden of becoming a role model for successful Muslims has been placed on the Malays.

The Prime Minister said the role model for success was not based on physical strength but mastery of the various skills.

"In this context, one must remember that the main strength of the Malays and the Malaysian people as a whole lies in the solidarity and understanding which have been in existence for so long," he said in his message in the souvenir book of the Johor Umno Convention beginning tomorrow.

He said Umno which acted as the umbrella for the Malays must be forward looking to restore the credibility of Islam and the glory of Islamic civilisation.

Dr Mahathir said so far the rise of Islamic civilisation had yet to be seen in the 21st century, but efforts towards this end must begin and be maintained.

"Such efforts may take a long time to achieve results, but it does not mean the first step towards it cannot be taken immediately," he said.

The Prime Minister said recent developments had resulted in a more challenging situation, especially when Muslims worldwide were not only lagging behind, but also facing severe oppression.

He said incidents after incidents which had placed Muslims under pressure clearly showed that they were still weak to the extent that it painted a bad picture of the religion itself.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is scheduled to open the two-day convention here tomorrow.

-- BERNAMA

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