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Mahathir-Tamil

DISTRIBUTE INDIAN-MUSLIM LITERARY WORKS IN SCHOOLS- DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 14 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today suggested that the historic literary works of Indian Muslims be printed and distributed among Tamil, Malay and Chinese schools in the country.

The Prime Minister said this would enable students to make references and understand better the history of Islamic Civilisation apart from helping to spread the Islamic literary wealth among the local multi-racial and multi-religious people.

"History is the civilisation of a particular race. This will enlighten future generations," he said when opening the Malaysian Tamil Muslim Literary Conference here.

Dr Mahathir noted that Tamil language scholars seldom referred to the literary works of Indian-Muslims.

"This is a loss because if we ourselves cannot spread our literary wealth, we cannot expect others or even our young generation to do this," he said.

The Prime Minister said if Tamil Muslim culture with its rich storehouse of manuscripts on the development of Islam was not spread and preserved, then it would become meaningless.

Dr Mahathir said in Malaysia an outstanding scholar of Indian-Muslim descent was Munshi Abdullah.

"It is my wish to see a person of the calibre of Munshi Abdullah emerging to write about the development of Tamil-Islamic literature in Malaysia for the knowledge of future generations," he said.

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that the conference would discover the past and present literary works and study their history in the interest of Muslims universally.

It was also hoped this would encourage young people to cherish and undertake research on Tamil-Muslim literature and write Islamic-based history.

If not it is feared that Tamil-Muslim literary works will not be popular with the public and the Indian community in particular, what more with the rapid development of ICT, Internet, e-mail and e-economy at present.

Conference Chairman Datuk Dr Haji Mohamed Haniffa said the Indian Muslim community in Malaysia respected and fully supported the government's efforts to stress on English in the teaching of science and maths.

The conference was organised by the Islamic Charity Body in collaboration with Indian Muslim organisations and charities in Malaysia.

-- BERNAMA

AFY AHH AAM