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M'SIA A KEY COMPONENT IN GLOBAL ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP

JOHOR BAHRU, June 8 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has been acknowledged by the world as a key component in the global Islamic leadership, following its success in translating Islam as a way of life, said Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman.

Unfortunately, he said the success of the country's leadership under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in raising Islam to greater heights was negated by the action of a small group of Malays themselves for political reasons.

"It was overshadowed by their desire, solely of seeking political power even to the extent of giving a narrow interpretation of Islam," he said in his speech at the opening of the two-day Johor Umno Convention by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi here today.

Abdul Ghani said it negated Malaysia's efforts to correct the image of Islam in the eyes of the world.

He said Malaysia's ability in managing her economy had also gained world's attention.

On her own, he said Malaysia had not only succeeded in overcoming the world economic crisis but also recorded continuous growth and distributed wealth through just partnership among the people.

-- BERNAMA

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