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Endowment-Mahathir

WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD A UNITED ISLAMIC COMMUNITY, ADVISES DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, May 5 (Bernama) -- Muslims must work together to build a united Islamic community whose members cooperate with each other in all fields in compliance with their "fardhu kifayah" obligations, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"It is incumbent upon us to unite and to deter our aggressors while determining our own fate in accordance with the teachings of the religion," said the prime minister in his foreward message contained in the souvenir programme of the Seventh Conference of the Ministers of Endowment and Islamic Affairs to be held here over three days beginning tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir said Islamic countries possessed priceless assets, which included energy resources, economy and population.

But in reality, he said, Muslims were being viewed by the world community as violent, always at war, narrow minded, disintegrated and a society which was unable to make use of the grace bestowed upon it to uphold the superiority of Islam as had previously been achieved during the glorious days of Islam.

"We have to accept the fact that not one Islamic country by today's standards can be considered developed, much less a super power able to influence the world.

"In reality, the Islamic world is now in a state of regress. Everywhere Muslims are being oppressed," he said.

The prime minister said that the fate of the people of Palestine was a clear example of our Muslims failing where, in spite of their resources, they were unable to influence any form of action to stop the violence.

Dr Mahathir hoped that the ongoing Seventh Conference of the Ministers of Endowment and Islamic Affairs would discuss and address problems pertaining to the Muslim world.

Nine papers would be presented at the Kuala Lumpur conference ranging from proposals on preparing Muslims in facing challenges in the rapidly changing world, to plans to set up a world foundation for Islamic heritage, investment fund for the development of wakaf properties, and measures in tackling extremism.

-- BERNAMA

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