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Mahathir-Islam

M'SIA PRACTISES ISLAMIC TEACHINGS IN KEEPING WITH THE TIMES, SAYS PM

PUTRAJAYA, Feb 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Malaysia has succeeded in practising Islam by upholding its true teachings and in keeping with the times.

He said that Malaysia had also succeeded in implementing Islamic banking, insurance and administration with the incorporation of Islamic values.

The civil laws were also studied and modified so that they were not contrary to Islamic teachings especially in terms of justice and fairness.

"Such are the successes in the incorporation of Islam as a way of life in Malaysia that many other Muslim countries regard Malaysia as a model Islamic country and frequently send delegations to learn our way of doing things," he said when launching e-Syariah here.

E-Syariah is the seventh flagship application under the Multimedia Super Corridor project. It is an integrated case management system covering all aspects involved in the handling of syariah court cases.

Dr Mahathir said that in the process, the non-Muslims in the country were never made to feel slighted or offended following the incorporation of the Islamic values and implementation of Islamic teachings.

"This is because we are not overzealous to the extent of attempting to Islamize everything that could not possibly be Islamized.

"There are those who feel that a certain colour is more Islamic than other colours, certain clothes are Islamic and so on," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that in Malaysia, Islam is regarded as a religion appropriate with the prevailing situation and not merely for the seventh century, 1,400 years ago.

"Trying to revive the situation like that 1,400 years ago to restore the glory of Islam is actually an insult to the religion as if it's a religion which can only thrive during the ancient times.

"We need to prove that Islam remains suitable in whatever situation, condition and environment and a religion which forms the foundation for a great civilisation," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that it was true that some Muslims in the country were not very happy with the administration of Islamic law in the country.

"This become more regrettable as Malaysia is the only Islamic country which adopts and upholds Islamic law by interpreting Islam with a sense of justice and fairness," he said.

According to him, in Malaysia, the implementation of Islamic law was not based on the teachings of Islam as interpreted by individual judges.

He said that this would give a very negative impression of Islam and Muslims and not in line with the teachings of Islam.

The Prime Minister said that there were Muslims prepared to resort to tyranny and injustice claiming that such actions were in line with Islamic teachings and this had tarnished the image of Islam.

"And the enemies of Islam take advantage of this by further undermining Islam so that this sacred religion is rejected by the non-Muslims.

"Today, Muslims and Islam have been looked down upon not because there are flaws in Islam but because of the actions of Muslims who fail to abide by the true teachings of Islam," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that in Malaysia, the government knew too well the shortcomings of individuals in making judgments.

"That is why Islamic laws have been codified. Other laws have also been

codified so that there will not be any contradiction between other laws in terms of principles and the basis of Islamic laws," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that punishing victims of crime and letting off criminals scot-free was not fair in Islam just like it was unfair in other laws.

"Making judgment means seeking justice, that is, the outcome of the process of making judgment is justice, instead of adherence to processes that an injustice is committed," he said.

On e-Syariah, he said that it was to ensure that the administration of Islamic affairs was supported by sophisticated equipment so that it could keep abreast with the latest development.

E-Syariah was developed by locals without the expertise of foreigners, he said.

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