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Islam-Unity

DR MAHATHIR'S LOVE FOR PEACE IS THE THRUST FOR MUSLIM UNITY

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 1 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's love for peace, unity, Islam and the ummah has impressed participants of the International Conference for Muslim Unity in the 21st Century (ICMU-21), here.

A participant from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Dr Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al-Haddad said he was impressed with Dr Mahathir's efforts in defending the credibility and integrity of the Muslims.

"We hear Dr Mahathir is a man who loves unity. He champions the cause of the Muslims and defends them and he is also concerned about the problems faced by the ummah," he said.

Dr Ahmad, from the Fatwa Council and Islamic Relations Department of the UAE, said he and the Muslims from his country were amazed at Dr Mahathir's clarity and boldness in arguing with the enemies of Islam.

"If the Muslims are strong, we will not fear the enemy. This is what Allah demands. Allah wants the ummah to be strong, united and trustworthy. And capable of saying 'no' to the enemies of Islam," Dr Ahmad told Bernama today.

A total of 175 participants from various countries are attending the two-day ICMU-21 beginning here today.

The participants are confident that Muslim unity would become a reality soon and that Malaysia was capable of mobilising efforts towards that goal, said Dr Ahmad.

A participant from Nigeria, Ahmad Umar Ahmad said it was not impossible for Muslims worldwide to unite because they followed the same teachings propagated by Prophet Muhammad.

"The Muslims must follow what is commanded by Allah and what is preached by the Prophet. Alhamdulillah, Malaysia's efforts are highly appreciated by all the ummah. We can unite," he said.

A participant from Palestine, Muhamad Al-Khatim said what was important in achieving solidarity was unity of ideas. Much could be gained from the teachings of Allah in efforts towards unity.

"Every Muslim country must start to achieve unity in their respective country first before global Muslim unity can be realised. Malaysia's efforts are truly most welcomed," he said.

President of the International Institute for Muslim Unity (IIMU), Tan Sri Sanusi Junid, when met after delivering his keynote address at the conference, said the unity agenda had always been the last priority of Muslim thinkers.

"We want to remove the prejudice among the thinkers, because it is the thinkers who teach the people below to quarrel among themselves, if we can ensure that the thinkers strive towards a common goal, that is unity, then there is hope for solidarity," he said.

Sanusi said efforts to unite the Muslims now were being made only by government officers and adults and hoped that the conference could approach the young generation and intellectuals in the universities.

"We must look at all factors and must give priority to all fields, give full opportunity to all thinkers, everyone must contribute, only then will there be unity," he said.

-- BERNAMA

AY AHH AO