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Agong-Islam

CONCEPT OF ISLAMIC STATE SHOULD BE EXPLAINED TO THE RAKYAT, SAYS KING

KUALA LUMPUR, March 10 (Bernama) -- The understanding on the Islamic state and "jihad" as well as the proper use of the institution of mosque should be explained to the rakyat as there are already signs that could jeopardise the unity of the ummah if left unchecked, said the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail today.

"This is the result when Muslims do not uphold the revered and true view on several matters such as the understanding of Malaysia as an Islamic state, understanding of jihad and the misuse of the mosque institution," he said when opening the first sitting of the fifth term of the 10th Parliament here.

He said immediate action was needed to ensure that the country would continue to enjoy stability, peace and prosperity.

The King also expressed regrets on the activities of some Sekolah Agama Rakyat (SAR) which did not teach the true teachings of Islam but instead instigated the students to hate other Muslims when Islam regards all Muslims as brothers.

"If my government were to continue to support such deviated religious schools, it would mean that the government condons the teaching of that contrary to Islam," he said.

However, he was grateful to note that many parents and students of SAR had responded to the government's call to switch to national schools where they would receive balanced education on their obligations as individuals or "fardhu ain" and as a member of the society or "fardhu kifayah".

On a global issue, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin was confident that Malaysia's leadership would add vitality to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to ensure it remained relevant and met the aspirations and interest of its members.

"As NAM chairman for the next three years, Malaysia is capable of leading it to face current challenges for the sake of global justice, prosperity and fairness as well as contributing towards resolving conflicts peacefully," he said.

He thanked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the government for the success in organising the recent 13th NAM Summit.

His Majesty also regretted to note that the world was facing various problems, including the threat of terrorism which others had associated with Islam.

"On the other hand, far greater violence committed by non-Islamic groups or individuals are not associated with their religions," he said.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin also expressed his wishes to see students in this country able to master English in line with the development in the fields of science and technology.

However, he regretted that the government's decision to use English in the teaching and learning of science and mathematics had been misconstrued and made into an issue by certain people.

"It reflects their narrow-mindedness, without realising the importance of building a harmonious Malaysian society," he said.

He also said that focus would continue to be given to the development of infrastructures to enhance the quality of life of the rural population, including the Orang Asli community.

He said the people's prosperity development scheme would be expanded to tackle poverty in both the urban and rural areas.

There would be systematic development for the Orang Asli community with

focus on education, economy and health, he said.

He said focus would also be given to efforts to provide housing for the betterment of the people and the quality of their life.

He hoped that national social policy could further strengthen the people's unity.

-- BERNAMA

FA AZH ABG