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Hamid-Mahathir

DR MAHATHIR CORRECTS NEGATIVE PERSPECTIVE OF MUSLIMS

PENANG, Feb 16 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has corrected the negative perspective of the Muslim community against knowledge and development in particular, a seminar here was told today.

The Prime Minister's Religious Adviser Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Osman said the Prime Minister believed that the negative perspective had made them weak.

"Because of this, Muslims are easily oppressed and it creates a crisis within the Islamic world, the absence of a developed and respected Islamic country," he said when presenting his paper on the Thoughts of Dr Mahathir for the Younger Generation at the seminar, organised by the Information Ministry's Special Affairs Department.

He said the cause of the problems facing the Islamic world according to Dr Mahathir was their own weakness and not because of pressure from outside.

Abdul Hamid said that for this reason Dr Mahathir had urged Muslims to discard practices that were against the Islamic values.

He said Dr Mahathir had also proven that Islam could be upheld with economic and political strength, not just implementation of its laws.

A country must be able to defend itself from whatever forms of attacks from the enemies of Islam, he said.

Abdul Hamid said Dr Mahathir's thoughts on Islam were not confusing and secular in nature.

On the contrary, they were rational, moderate and pragmatic, he said.

"Dr Mahathir always refers to the Quran and Sunnah as well as looking back into the history of Islam before giving his views on Islam," he said.

He described Dr Mahathir's thoughts as unique and interesting as he had vast understanding of Islam, giving true interpretation of Islam in terms of its role, position and effect on oneself, community and one's environment.

The Islamic approach taken by Dr Mahathir was pragmatic and almost similar to the "Contemporary Islamic Approach" founded by Dr Abdul Hamid Abu Sulayman, an ulama and former rector of the International Islamic University of Malaysia, he said.

He said the concept of the approach was to resolve the problems facing the Muslims, based on the Quran, Sunnah and "Ijtihad".

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