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Ulama-Conference

MALAYSIA TO HOST WORLD ULAMA CONFERENCE IN JULY

KUALA LUMPUR, May 14 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will host the World Conference of Islamic Scholars in Putrajaya from July 10 to 12, which will involve more than 600 ulamas.

Chairman of the executing committee Datuk Haji Mohamad Nakhaie Ahmad said the conference, to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will serve as a platform for ulamas to discuss challenges faced by Muslims in the globalisation era.

"We want these ulamas to play an important role in creating awareness among Muslims and explain the true meaning of Islam ... this is because one of the causes of disunity among Muslims is the confusion over Islamic teachings," he told Bernama during an interview.

Nakhaie, who is also Islamic Dakwah Foundation Malaysia (Yadim) President, said the confusion was caused by the various interpretations of Islam made by certain groups.

"Each and everyone would interpret Islam according to their own interest and not according to the true meaning of Islam as contained in the holy Quran and sunnah," he said.

Among renowned ulamas who have been invited is Imam Shaikh Al-Azhar from Egypt, Dr Sayyid Muhammad Tantawi, who will deliver the keynote address entitled "True religion in facing challenges of globalisation".

"We hope the conference will mark the beginning of efforts for Muslims worldwide to unite and cooperate in facing global challenges,"

"Given the current world developments, particularly the Information Technology (IT) revolution, we find that Muslims are facing a (culture) shock and pressures from superpowers," he said.

He said this seemed to be driving some Muslims to terrorism in a bid to save themselves from oppression.

"Although their intention is to liberate themselves, is terrorism the way? This mindset on terrorism should also be addressed,"

"The younger generation in particular has to be enlightened that terrorism is not the way for us to escape oppression," he said.

The conference will also enable Malaysia to share its experiences in matters concerning nation-building, particularly economic management.

Local participants will consist of representatives from government agencies, the private sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), political parties and institutions of higher learning.

-- BERNAMA

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