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Pakistan-Editor

MUSLIM WORLD NEEDS PRAGMATIC LEADER LIKE DR MAHATHIR - SAYS EDITOR

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 8 (Bernama) -- The Muslim world needs a dynamic and pragmatic leader like Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, a senior editor said today.

The Pakistan Observer Editor-in-Chief Zahid Malik said Dr Mahathir could play an influential role after his retirement, especially towards the Muslim community.

"The Islamic world is leaderless (now) and needs a strong leader with ability, knowledge and guts to lead them. The Muslim world needs a liberal, modern and moderate leader," Zahid said after calling on Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob at his office here.

Citing former South African president Nelson Mandela, he said Dr Mahathir could play a similar role in promoting world peace.

Zahid was in Malaysia to attend a peace journalism seminar recently.

Touching on the role of the media, Zahid, who is also the publisher of the English daily, said journalists played a pivotal role in the volatile global environment.

"The press has a greater responsibility now when the world is going through wars, tension and skirmishes. (But) some newspapers exaggerate the news. The press can play a positive role without inflaming (sentiments) and don't have to hide the facts or blow it up," Zahid said.

Generally, newspapers in Asia were more responsible in their reporting and also contributed to the regional economic development, he said

Meanwhile, he said the Pakistani press had undergone major changes and enjoyed considerable freedom now.

"The media is free, independent and no more in the shackles of the government. The government has less leverage to control Pakistani press and they have undergone a long struggle to obtain this independence and now quite strong to write whatever they wish to write," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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