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Scholars-Power

POWER-SHARING IN M'SIA DONE AFTER SEEKING VIEW OF ULAMAS

PUTRAJAYA, July 10 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today told Islamic scholars and thinkers, attending a world conference here, that the power-sharing system practised by Malaysia was implemented after seeking the view of the local scholars.

Speaking to reporters at the end of the first day of the World Conference on Islamic Scholars, the chairman of the executing committee Datuk Mohamed Nakhaie Ahmad said: "And the ulamas in Malaysia confirmed that the politics of power-sharing is permitted and in line with the teachings of Islam."

He said the Prime Minister also explained that the use of any system and others from other civilisations including the West was not prohibited by Islam.

Dr Mahathir, he said, cited as an example democracy. It might be from the West but if it could be implemented and of benefit to the Muslims themselves, then it would not be prohibited .

"So, we can accept a system from the West if it benefits and helps us to resolve our problems.

"It is clear that the implementation of the democratic system has resolved many problems of contradiction prevailing within our society and we are free to choose our leaders," he said.

Besides opening the three-day conference, Dr Mahathir also held a dialogue session with some 900 participants from 34 Islamic countries, including Malaysia.

He said that in today's session Dr Mahathir had stressed on the importance of Muslims to practise the teachings of Islam, based on the fundamentals and not on certain interpretations.

Mohamad Nakhaie said that other matters raised by Dr Mahathir at the conference included the secret of Malaysia's success, which was the emphasis on education as demanded by Islam.

"So the overall emphasis largely covers the concept of the Islamic civilisation, not the ritualistic aspect of Islam," he said.

Among the noted scholars who attend the conference or "multaqa" is Sheikh Al-Azhar Dr Mohammad Sayyid Tantawi, who also held a meeting with Dr Mahathir at his office.

Asked on the meeting, the chairman of the conference main committee, Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said the two leaders discussed on ways to strengthen efforts to inculcate the true understanding of Islam.

"This is because such understanding has been twisted. Both of them therefore agreed for more dissemination of information on the true teachings of Islam," he said.

In addition, he said Muslims should revert to the fundamentals of Islam and not certain interpretation that could destroy the ummah.

-- BERNAMA
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