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SCHOLARS: ELEMENTS TRYING TO UNDERMINE GOVT'S EFFORTS

PUTRAJAYA, July 10 (Bernama) -- The government has succeeded in developing the strength of the country and the Muslims based on the true teachings of Islam but there are elements trying to deny the efforts.

In revealing this, the chairman of the organising committee of the World Conference of Islamic Scholars, Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Othman said these groups had their own agendas.

"They hold on to the interpretations which are no longer suitable to the current condition and situation," he said in his welcoming speech at the conference, which was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here today.

Abdul Hamid, who is also Religious Advisor to the Prime Minister, said that in this context, the conference attended by almost 900 Islamic scholars worldwide could help to resolve the problems facing the ummah based on the true teachings of Islam.

He said that in the past ulamas and thinkers were frequently invited to discuss matters affecting the welfare of the ummah.

The participation of noted Islamic scholars such as Sheikh Al-Azhar Dr Muhammad Sayyed Tantawi would inspire the participants and the Islamic world to face challenges and restore the dignity and respect of the ummah, he said.

-- BERNAMA

HM AZZ ABG