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Mahathir-Science

STUDY SCIENCE TO STRENGTHEN FAITH IN ISLAM- DR MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged Muslims to study science not only because it is vital for their survival in today's world but also to strengthen their faith in Islam and Allah.

"You must study science in order to survive, in order to protect ourselves, in order to match with others (non-Muslims), not to fight with them but actually to ensure that we are given a chance to survive as the others have survived," he said.

Opening Malaysia's first mega Research and Development laboratory of the InventQjaya Sdn Bhd (IQJ) here, he said through the study of science, Muslims could strengthen their faith in Allah.

The laboratory, designed to speed up the innovation of a world-class knowledge economy in the country, occupies a new state-of-the-art 28,000 sq metre facility.

IQJ is a joint venture between the Malaysian Government and Reveo Inc of the United States.

Dr Mahathir said that Muslims should pursue science because there was so much to gain from the subject.

Muslims should not be worried that science would undermine their faith in Islam just because some had described science as secular.

Through science Muslims could defend themselves against threats that could wipe out all of them.

Dr Mahathir said by seeking knowledge in science and technology, Muslims could achieve progress, improve the quality of life and become a great nation.

To achieve the goal of a developed nation by 2020, Malaysia must acquire knowledge in every field especially in science and technology, he said.

Hence the government had allocated a huge sum of money to establish the InventQjaya.

Dr Mahathir said some ideas which were considered ridiculous at the initial stage could produce results that would benefit people later.

For example, he said, the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of InventQjaya, Prof Dr Sadeg Faris came out with the "ridiculous" idea of producing fresh water from the Dead Sea during the water crisis in Jordan.

"Such ridiculous ideas, may produce results that we can enjoy. So let us not laugh at ridiculous ideas. Let us give it a try," the Prime Minister said.

Dr Mahathir hoped InventQjaya would produce world class inventions and put Malaysia on the world map of science and technology.

"Hopefully, some young Malaysians will become the Einstein of Malaysia in the spirit of Malaysia Boleh."

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians usually hesitated to try local inventions but on the other hand would have faith in foreign inventions.

Malaysians must erase all doubts in local inventions and be ready to use them.

In fact, the government had urged banks and financial institutions to finance research projects even those which carried the risk of not producing results.

-- BERNAMA

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