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Taib-Islam

LIBERAL ISLAMIC ADMINISTRATION STYLE MUST BE MAINTAINED, SAYS CM

KUCHING, March 20 (Bernama) -- A liberal Islamic administration style which has been practiced in this country for generations must be maintained to ensure prosperity and harmony among the people.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said the liberal Islamic administration style practiced in this country was not only capable of maintaining peace among Malaysians but also raise the image of Islam in the eyes of the world.

"In Malaysia, we work hard to showcase a moderate Islamic image, we don't show rage to the Western world and we are not against other races. In fact, we try to be on good terms to everyone as it is required by our religion," he said after the launching ceremony of the Kampung Bandarshah surau upgrading works, near here last night.

Also present was former Agriculture Minister Tan Sri Sulaiman Daud, State Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Abang Johari Tun Openg and Social Development and Urbanisation Assistant Minister Sharifah Mordiah Tuanku Fauzi.

Explaining further, Abdul Taib said Malaysia under the leadership of the first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj had strived to elevate the position of Islam through the establishment of the Asia Pacific Dakwah Council which was meant to spread the teachings of Islam to countries within the region.

"At first, it was hard for Islam to be received in certain countries like New Guinea because they linked Islam to violence. However, when they came here and saw for themselves how Islam was practiced in a liberal and moderate manner, they realised their negative perceptions on Islam was wrong.

"This proves that a sincere struggle receives the blessings of Allah. The liberal Islamic administration ways practiced by our leaders managed to allow foreigners to see Islam from a fresh perspective," he said.

He said this was also the case during Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's administration where Malaysia managed to prove that not all Muslims resorted to violence in the wake of the Sept 11 incident New York.

-- BERNAMA

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