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Muslim-Recipe

MUSLIMS CAN PROGRESS BY REMOVING "CANNON BALL", SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 18 (Bernama) -- Muslim nations can progress and be at par with the developed non-Muslim states if they get rid of the "cannon ball" in their mind so that they can achieve greater speed and catch up with the others, said former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said Muslim nations were not able to progress before because of the resistance by misguided forces in their society.

"They are like runners with a cannon ball chained to their feet and trying to keep up with others who are free from any encumbrance. They can only make slow progress from the starting point and soon be left behind,"

he told participants of the 2004 Jeddah Economic Forum today.

The text of his keynote address entitled "A Recipe from Malaysia for Growth: Vision 2020" was made available to Bernama here.

Believing the recipe for progress is to rid oneself of the cannon ball in the mind and that one can do what others can do, the former Prime Minister said Muslims must be prepared to try and to do things over and over again until they succeeded.

Brushing aside the notion that a Muslim country could not be governed well and progress, he said Muslim civilisation was once greater than all other civilisations in the history of mankind.

Speaking at length on Malaysia's success recipe for development and the belief of "trying and trying again until successful", Dr Mahathir said the creed and faith one held was important to the success or failure of one's endeavour.

Being a Muslim country that has great ambition to become a developed country by the year 2020, he said Malaysians had to work very hard to achieve its ambition and be able to think, act and react to overcome any obstacle.

Dr Mahathir, who stepped down as Prime Minister on Oct 31, said

Malaysia, with its multi-ethnic population, was very tolerant of the different races and religions.

Reconciling all these differences was a major problem, he said, adding that failure to do so would result in instability and would affect development adversely.

Saying that Muslim rule must be seen to be fair and just, especially in the enforcement of the laws of the country, he said it was necessary that everyone felt assured of fair and just treatment under the laws of the country, for them to feel secure in going about their daily lives and contributing to the economy of the country.

"As much as we do not like Muslims living in non-Muslim countries to be subjected to any kind of injustice, we in Malaysia would not want non-Muslims to be subjected to any kind of injustice. The fairness and justice of Malaysian government contradict no Islamic tenets," he said.

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