

13 JUN 2004

Zainuddin-Islam

MUSLIMS TOLD TO MASTER ALL FIELDS OF KNOWLEDGE FOR OWN SURVIVAL

PENANG, June 13 (Bernama) -- Muslims in the country have been told to master all fields of knowledge, to adjust themselves with current needs and to have the ability to interact effectively with others for their own survival.

Deputy Information Minister Datuk Zainuddin Maidin said Muslims in Malaysia needed to be citizens of the world, not narrow minded Muslim of the Malays.

Speaking to reporters after giving a lecture at the three-day Special Affairs Department Officers Conference, here today, he said the development Muslims in Malaysia today was as a result of the leadership and visions of the country's leaders including Allahyarham Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Alhaj and Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

The leaders, he said, did not totally reject values and lifestyles of western society.

Malaysia is known because of the ability of her leaders to interact with the outside world effectively. They were Muslims of the world and not Muslims of the Malays who lived in their own world, he said.

"For example, people see Tun Dr Mahathir as a man of the world because he talks about Islam as the whole and not just about the country," he said.

He said the country's leaders considered English as a bridge for the people to gain knowledge from the west.

On the other hand in a few Islamic countries, Zainuddin said, their leaders made friends with the west for the interest of the economy but they have citizens who were against the west.

"They fail to understand the goal of their leaders befriending the west as their Islamic education were not in entirety, no reform, no modernisation and unable to adjust with the current development," he said.

On the "Tragedi Taksub" segment shown by Radio dan Televisyen Malaysia (RTM), Zainuddin said it was aimed at reminding viewers that the danger of militancy and conservatism still existed in the country.

The government, was against violent and fanatic groups who were using religion for their self interest, he said in calling on the people not to be influenced by their ideology.

-- BERNAMA

ZU JR