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Mahathir-Science

REMOVE CONFUSION ON SCIENCE, DR MAHATHIR TELLS MUSLIMS

PENANG, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on Muslims to remove any confusion on science as it now plays a major role in human life.

He said the confusion or belief that science would erode one's belief in religion would cause Muslims who adhered strictly to the religion to reject science.

Although science today played a major role in human life, it would turn to be a problem to Muslims if there were apprehensions that it could erode or destroy their faith in the religion.

"Therefore, we should not be concerned that learning science will erode our belief in religion. In fact, we are carrying out one of the fardhu kifayahs (obligations) by learning science," he said at the 33rd Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Convocation ceremony, here, where he received an Honorary Doctorate in Science from Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid, who is USM Chancellor.

Also present were Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Abdul Rahman Abbas, Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, USM Pro-Chancellor Tan Sri Dr Lin See-Yan, USM Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dzulkifli Abdul Razak and Dr Mahathir's wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Dr Mahathir said, as one who was trained in the medical field and confronted science challenges in various aspects of life, he had to make clarifications especially on what was science knowledge and its implications which needed to be explained.

He said if Muslims rejected science, it would lead to certain implications and could make them continue to be weak.

"I have to make this clarification as there are good students who reject science saying it will not bring Allah's rewards and is not beneficial," he said.

He said such views were wrong as the knowledge of science could strengthen the belief and would contribute to prosperity and

happiness in  
the life of Muslims and Muslim countries.

"There were many kinds of knowledge which Muslim academicians  
had good  
command of and that were pioneered as well as expanded, but no  
longer  
studied and exploited by Muslims," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this happened as in the past, some Islamic  
scholars  
had thought and propagated the interpretation and teaching that  
rejected  
knowledge other than the Islamic knowledge from being learnt.

He said as a result, Muslims were not able to develop and  
advance  
unlike Muslims before the interpretation which rejected education  
which was  
not on Islam.

He also said the government had decided to raise the command of  
science  
and mathematics as the country was lagging far behind in both fields  
and  
that decision was intended to develop the nation and the religion so  
that  
the country was not oppressed.

He said to learn and advance in the two fields of knowledge, the  
government had opted English without neglecting Bahasa Malaysia.

-- BERNAMA

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