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Integrated Islamic education system needs to be formalised

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WHEN the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, calls for reforms in Sekolah Agama Rakyat, he sincerely wants Muslims to be self-reliant in all aspects of life.

No people who rely upon foreign experts in their most critical affairs can be actually sovereign. People who can't afford to cultivate their land to feed their hungry people, or have no medicine to cure their patients, or only import expertise to develop their heavy industry, can't be independent.

Muslims need an educational system that meets the requirements of modern life. They also should develop the capacity to wisely mobilise and distribute their resources.

This is why Islam is concerned with human resources and strives to foster them physically, mentally, spiritually, scientifically and professionally.

In order to achieve self-sufficiency, various streams should be coordinated. No aspect should be neglected at the expense of another.

Attention should not be paid, for example, to agriculture while industry is neglected, or vice versa. We should not focus on producing only doctors while engineers are forgotten.

This is why we should lay emphasis upon pragmatism to identify the needs