

27/01/2003

Words of wisdom for our reflection

By Yasmeeen J. Marican

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's speech at the Al-Azhar University in Cairo (NST, Jan 23) truly hit the nail right on the head.

Indeed, a strong and relevant message has been delivered to all Muslims during these crucial and volatile times.

Certainly, it is now for us to reflect and act on what Dr Mahathir so succinctly said.

The close-mindedness, decline and regress of our great Islamic civilisation is the result of many leaders and people of Muslim nations not adhering to the tenets of the religion.

History has shown us that. However, the Muslim majority has failed to wake up and arrest this continuous decline.

Instead, we have allowed others to dominate, oppress and divide us. We must take it upon ourselves individually and collectively (the brotherhood of Islam), to correct and better our lot dunia wa akhirat (on Earth and in the Hereafter).

I agree with Dr Mahathir that Muslim unity is vital. Constructive assistance and positive support within the Muslim "family" world-wide are the avenues toward realising the greatness of the Islamic civilisation once more.

We cannot be afraid of our enemies. We cannot say "die". That is unIslamic.

We must always have hope and confidence in the Greatest, the Almighty, Allah.

To those who preach that worldly acquisitions and the study of "secular" subjects are incompatible with Islam, my retort is this Hadith: "When you pray, pray as if it is your last prayer. And when you work, work as if you'll live forever."

YASMEEN J. MARICAN  
Subang Jaya

(END)