



Tantawi says Islam Hadhari should be practised by all

Scholar hails PM's balanced approach

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KUALA LUMPUR: Saying Islam preached moderation, head of the Egyptian centre for Islamic studies at Al-Azhar University yesterday praised Malaysia's Islam Hadhari approach.

Sheikh Prof Dr Mohammad Sayyed Tantawi said the Islam Hadhari or civilisational Islam approach popularised by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi should be practised by all Muslims.

"It covers all aspects, including spiritual and political, in achieving a

balance in life," he said after delivering a talk on "Moderation in Islam" at the Federal Territory mosque, yesterday.

Tantawi, who is well known in the Muslim fraternity, is on a three-day visit to Malaysia.

He said although Islam and politics could not be separated, Muslims should shun politics that caused disunity or thrived on falsehood. That is why, he added, Islam Hadhari, with its balanced and practical approach, should be followed.

Tantawi also defended "*misyar* marriages" where Muslim men are allowed to marry without having to live with or financially support their wives, saying it was valid in Islamic law.

"The marriage is in accordance with the conditions stipulated by *syarak* laws," he said.

Present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdullah Mohd Zain and the religious adviser to the Prime Minister, Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Othman.