

# Present true face of

# Islam, says PM

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**MOSCOW:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi says Muslims have a responsibility to present the true face of Islam to the world.

He said the misconception against Islam in the West stemmed from a lack of understanding of the true nature of Islam.

Malaysia, he said, understood this subject well because the country was a microcosm of diversity and pluralism which existed globally as it was a diverse multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-religious country.

"Malaysia has adopted the correct approach for practising the Islamic religion in a diverse and plural society such as ours. We have, therefore, made the

Islamic religion serve as a unifying, instead of a dividing, factor," he said in a speech at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations yesterday.

"We have decided to urge the Muslims in Malaysia to adopt *Islam Hadhari* or Civilisational Islam as the correct way of adhering to the faith.

"And we have asked the non-Muslims to understand it as a form of governance which guarantees justice and fairness to all Malaysians without distinction as to race, culture or religion."

The university had earlier conferred on Abdullah an honorary doctorate.

Abdullah said Malaysia would like to present *Islam Hadhari* at the international

level, as a contribution towards a better understanding of Islam by all sides in the international community of nations.

"*Islam Hadhari* will remind Muslims, and reveal to the non-Muslims, that Islam in reality is a religion which is tolerant, progressive and peace-loving," he said.

The prime minister said Malaysia would also like to offer its experience in the aspect for study by others.

*Islam Hadhari*, he said, showed that the teaching of Islam could be used to develop contemporary models of good governance and social change.

"It calls for putting into practice, among others, justice, freedom, love of knowledge, balanced



development, a good quality of life for the people, protection of minorities and moral integrity," he said.

On Tuesday night, Abdullah said Malaysians have no choice but to achieve excellence in mastering knowledge and skills to make Malaysia a progressive nation.

He said that through the National Mission, the government hoped to turn Malaysia into a leading developed country and, to this end, its people would need to add to their knowledge and skills.

"The government's emphasis on human capital development is aimed at grooming a pool of talented Malaysians capable of carrying out challenging tasks through the usage of new technology," he told a gathering of Malaysian students here. - Bernama