

Malays must master science and technology

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Malays must be *cemerlang, gemilang* and *terbilang* for the country to be a global economic player and lead the Islamic world as generators of technology and not just as users of technology.

ZAIDI ISHAM ISMAIL writes.

THERE was a time when Muslims mastered science and technology and Malaysians, especially Malays, must strive to relive the glory days of Islam.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Dr Jamaludin Jarjis said it was time Malays underwent their own Islamic renaissance.

"In a nutshell, Malaysia must start making headways in agriculture, information technology and industry.

"By building a Muslim soci-

ety which is *cemerlang, gemilang* and *terbilang*, only then can Malaysia become a global economic player," said Jamaluddin.

He said Islamic civilisations achieved greatness and glory as early as the seventh century by mastering knowledge, especially science and technology.

"By mastering these disciplines, we can master other fields such as biotechnology, information technology, as well as space and marine sciences and other traditional



Datuk Seri Dr Jamaludin Jarjis

areas such as agriculture and manufacturing."

He said Malays could lead the Islamic world by becoming generators of technology.

"The IT sector, for example, is a fast-emerging area and Muslims must have their own

research and development facility to develop their own Islamic IT product."

He said Malays could invent their own agriculture product using in-house scientific knowledge.

He said learning science and technology was subscribed to by the Muslim faith so that its worshippers would stand on their own feet and not be at the whims and fancies of the non-Muslim world.

"Malays can steer the world's Muslim population to

achieve excellence in the scientific and technology domains," he said.

He said scientific excellence in Islamic civilisation was not a new topic but it was not often promoted or examined since it was always shadowed by the scientific discoveries of the Western world.

"In our society today, especially Muslim society, there are many who still believe that acquired knowledge is not as important as revealed knowledge.

"This perception has to change as an undue focus on gaining spiritual understanding alone leads to an imbalance in the overall pursuit of knowledge." He said this had in turn led to Muslims being left behind in the pursuit and mastery of knowledge.

"This perception needs to change because we need to consolidate our worldly knowledge and understanding in tandem with the expansion of the global knowledge-based economy," he added.