

King urges Muslims to adopt lifelong learning

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's effort to develop its human capital is similar to that of the Muslims' struggle to achieve the true meaning of *hijrah*, a physical and spiritual journey for the betterment of the people.

Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin said a well-organised and comprehensive development of human capital could enhance the knowledge, skills, expertise and intelligence needed for national progress.

Speaking at the national-level Ma'al Hijrah celebration here yesterday, he said *hijrah* had taught Muslims that the development of human resources was vital for progress.

In line with this year's theme,

"Excellent Human Beings, Outstanding Followers", the King reminded Muslims to adopt lifelong learning to ensure they always stayed abreast of current information, knowledge and expertise.

"Muslims should learn to articulate their opinions, ideas, innovations, thinking and creativity with intelligence, rationality and integrity, while constantly being competitive.

"Only with such an attitude can we expect to move ahead, make changes and initiate a paradigm shift among Muslims for greater achievements."

The King said problems afflicting Muslims could be overcome with a mastery of the knowledge,

information and intellectual resources relevant to the current situation.

Present at the event were Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Nur Zahirah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdullah Md Zin.

Ma'al Hijrah, the beginning of the Islamic calendar year, was celebrated in all states yesterday.

At another event, the prime minister called on Muslims to do more charity work to ensure their well-being not only in this world but also in the hereafter.

A good example of charity would be to provide for orphans, said Abdullah.

"With our help, orphans will be able to contribute to society when they grow up and join the workforce."

He presented educational aid to orphans from the Titiwangsa parliamentary constituency, and from Masjid Al-Jamiul Badawi in Kepala Batas, Penang, and Masjid Jamek Kampung Baru, here.

The Educational Aid for Orphans Scheme was introduced to help orphans from congregations in the Titiwangsa constituency and the two mosques until the age of 21.

Abdullah presented the scheme's policy certificates to 23 orphans at Masjid Jamek Kampung Baru. A total of 373 orphans will receive the policy.