

PM: Muslims facing their biggest obstacles

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KUALA LUMPUR: Muslims today face their biggest enemies in poverty, under-development and ignorance, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He said it was sad to see these factors causing many Muslim nations falling back in literacy and development.

"When we talk about illiteracy and poverty, we see it happening in Muslim nations.

"When we see wars happening, they are also in Muslim nations," he said when launching the Dewan Amal Islami (Damai), a community and business development foundation, at the Putra World Trade Centre here yesterday.

Abdullah, who chairs the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), said the only way forward was through education and the development of human capital.

"Muslims should not be illiterate, as Islam encourages education.

"And the development of human capital must be emphasised among the younger generation to bring about better leaders in the future," he said.

The launching of Damai, headed by deputy Information Minister Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamid, came ahead of a one-day symposium on Islamic knowledge.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak closes the *Wacana Ilmuan Islam* programme at the PWTC today.