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'Islamic govts must show concern for all'

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MALACCA: An administration led by Muslims must be guided by Islamic values and be fair, free from corruption, respect laws and show concern for all communities, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

As such, he said, having a good administration when in power was important to ensure Islam grew and non-Muslims did not keep away from Muslims.

"If we can do this, the benefits will be great, among them, understanding of Islamic teachings will increase and people will listen more to the administration," he said at Perkim's (Malaysian Muslim Welfare Organisation) 48th annual general meeting at a hotel here yesterday.

Present were Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam and Perkim honorary secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Othman.

Dr Mahathir, who has been Perkim president since 2006, said when Islamic administra-

tions exhibited cruelty, abuse of power, corruption, inefficiency and oppression of others, people would have a negative perception of Islam.

"Today, there isn't a single Islamic country that can be said to be a developed nation. There are some who hold the view that progress of Islamic countries is not important.

"But we have witnessed the fate of many Islamic nations because of their backwardness.

"They are forced to beg, ask for help from others and, as a result, are often manipulated by their benefactors, who might be their enemies."

Dr Mahathir said Islamic countries and Islam would only be respected if they were progressive, like in the Golden Age of Islam.

He said Perkim's role in propagating Islam was also clear in that before bringing Islam to the public, its members must be examples of the values and teachings of the religion. — Bernama