

PM: Muslim nations capable of competing with developed nations

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad says Muslim nations have the capability and strength, and could compete against developed nations but do not have the will to do it.

The Prime Minister said this resulted in Muslim nations being perceived as weak and is the reason why Muslims continue to be suppressed, controlled and abused by other countries.

"There's a total of 52 Muslim nations in the world but none of them can be considered a developed nation. Is this because our

religion prohibits us from progressing?"

"Does this mean that people professing Islam do not progress and are not allowed to develop?"

"I would like to say that we can compete with them in terms of brainpower but we are not utilising the gifts from Allah," he said when opening the Muslim Welfare Organisation of Malaysia (Perkim) 58th national annual general meeting.

Citing South Korea as an example, Dr Mahathir said the country was once behind Malaysia in terms

of development and administration but has now moved forward rapidly.

"We can see extraordinary developments there.

"Today they can be considered among the developed countries, with high income and expertise, and capable of doing things that other Western countries have achieved," said Dr Mahathir who just returned from an official visit to South Korea.

Dr Mahathir also noted that despite having great wealth in their own nations, Muslim lead-

ers were inefficient at governing them.

"As a result, we can see that Muslims themselves are running away from Muslim countries.

"They are seeking refuge in other non-Muslim nations because of the instability, lack of safety and justice in their own homeland.

"Unfortunately, when they are staying in those countries that provide refuge to them, some of them end up committing acts that are disrupting public order.

"Some detonated bombs in the countries that provide them with a

place to stay, and others even deliberately ploughed a truck into a crowd which killed 80 innocent lives," he said.

Dr Mahathir said such acts fuelled anger among the public in the host country and further increased the spread of Islamophobia.

Watch the video
thestartv.com

