

DPM: BN has always been at forefront in defending Islam
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KUALA LUMPUR: The Barisan Nasional government has always been at the forefront in defending Islam and spreading its teachings that form the main thrust of unity in the country.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said Umno, as the biggest Malay party with Muslim members, had always made it its highest priority to uphold the sanctity of Islam and defend its principles.

"The sanctity of Islam has remained intact despite the intense challenges faced by our leaders," he said at a meeting with some 5,000 members of surau and mosque committees, qari and qariahs, educationists and religious officials of Federal Territory at Masjid Usamah bin Zaid in Wangsa Maju today.

"We should appreciate the government's efforts to ensure Islamic unity that has been in place for a long time in our country."

Muhyiddin told those gathered that it was everybody's responsibility to maintain the peace enjoyed in advocating Islam as the country's official religion.

"We should also be grateful that Islam is the official religion enshrined in the Constitution of Malaysia."

Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, said Islam's position as the official religion in the country was the result of previous leaders of Umno and would continue to be protected under Umno's leadership.

He said the BN government had constructed mosques and surau, appointed imam, trained religious teachers and scholars to spread and uphold the true teachings of Islam.

"Institutions like the Malaysian Islamic Development Department (JAKIM), Federal Territory Islamic Religious Department (JAWI) and the Malaysian Islamic Council have also assisted scholars and those spreading the teachings of Islam.

"This is above and beyond the government funding of Islamic-based activities and other forms of support."

He also said the government had also set up private public religious schools to complement those run by individual operators.

"The Sekolah Agama Rakyat (private religious schools), for example, has been acknowledged for its contributions in the education of Islam."

At the event yesterday, Muhyiddin also handed out a total of RM377,500 to 755 recipients comprising imam and mosque officials in appreciation of their hard work and efforts to uphold Islam.

Also present was the imam of Al-Nabawi Madinah Al Munawarah Mosque, Fadhilatul Al-Sheikh Solah Muahmmad Al-Budair.

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