

**Balance Beauty of Mosques with Proliferation of Knowledge - Zahid
Bernama
Nov 24, 2016**

KUCHING, Nov 24 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi today called on Muslims to balance the physical beauty of mosques and surau with the proliferation of knowledge so as to build a better image of Islam in this world and hereafter.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that when Islam was made the federal religion, Muslims in the country carried the responsibility of placing the agenda of development and solidarity of the ummah at the forefront.

He said Muslims in the country should be portrayed as having a good image, advanced and knowledgeable in many fields and not a community associated with poverty, crime, violence or bad image.

"The image of Islam must be branded by the progress of the ummah, not by dependence on others. Let's not have a handful of Muslims tarnishing the image of Islam, then having this compounded by the Western countries through the creation of various terms such as Al-Qaeda, IS, ISIL, Daesh and such," he said in his address when opening the Darul Husni Warrahmah Mosque in Petra Jaya here.

Ahmad Zahid said that even if only a handful of the 1.8 billion Muslims in the world were involved in activities that damaged the good name of Islam, it would still tarnish the image of the religion.

Ahmad Zahid said 6,391 mosques and 17,707 surau were registered with the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia to cater to 19 million Muslims representing 61.3 per cent of the country's population, and these statistics were a manifestation of the good development of Islam, as the federal religion, in the country.

He said the government was committed to helping develop mosques in the country, contrary to the situation in some countries in this region where the development of mosques depended entirely on contributions from the ummah.

The Deputy Prime Minister gave the commitment to provide a RM500,000 allocation to the Darul Husni Warrahmah Mosque to help in the construction of an extension building and for missionary activities.

Federal Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Mohd Yusof, who is the MP for Petra Jaya, and the state assemblyman for Tupong, Fazzrudin Abdul Rahman, also attended the opening of the mosque.

Ahmad Zahid is scheduled to return to Kuala Lumpur this evening.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 216 BERNAMA

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1305652>