

Pak Lah: Islam Hadhari not a new religion or order

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JAKARTA: Islam Hadhari is not a new religion or a new religious order but merely re-emphasises the centrality of Islam in the daily lives of its believers, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"It serves as the guiding principle for appreciating and practising the faith in these modern times," he said.

"Malaysia certainly wishes to be a dynamic part of the modernising and

globalising world while maintaining its Islamic credentials.

"It is our intention that Islam Hadhari serves this purpose."

He expressed Malaysia's hope that Islam Hadhari would be able to showcase Islam as a tolerant and caring religion.

Abdullah said Malaysia hoped to adopt Islam Hadhari as a comprehensive approach to the development of mankind, society and country, based

on the perspective of Islamic teachings and civilisation.

"As an approach to religion, we feel everyone should be comfortable with Islam Hadhari because it embodies principles which are universally familiar and accepted," he said.

"Islam Hadhari is a progressive approach for all Malaysians whether they are Muslims or non-Muslims."

He added that there was no fear of

any discrimination or persecution on account of religion in Malaysia.

He said the true teachings of Islam served as the basis and inspiration for good governance in Malaysia.

"We decided to call this approach, and articulate it as, Islam Hadhari," he said, adding that the need to be just and fair formed an important part of the principles underlying Islam Hadhari.

Abdullah said he was delighted

Syarif Hidayathullah State Islamic University had shown special interest in Islam Hadhari.

Later, Abdullah called on Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at the Istana Negara here, where they had a short discussion.

The prime minister also met Malaysian students at the Malaysian Embassy for an hour before leaving for Kuala Lumpur.