

BULAN DAKWAH 2009



Department of Islamic
Development Malaysia

“ We don't have a political agenda in re-introducing the dakwah month. All Muslims should carry out the struggle to achieve the Islamic vision. ”

*Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi,
Minister in the Prime Minister's Department*



Dakwah month revived after 31 years

■ By Nik Imran Abdullah

THE government has revived the dakwah month programme after 31 years to forge greater Muslim unity.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the programmes for the month were designed to involve all segments of society, including the non-Muslims.

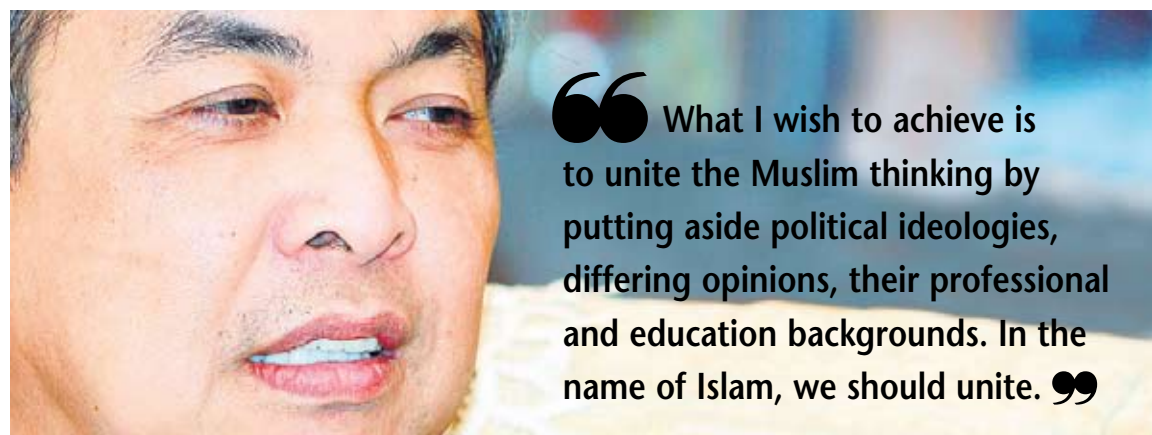
He said efforts would also be made to reach out to fringe groups like the Mat Rempit and drug addicts through activities they can relate to.

“All this while, the tendency has been to pass judgment on people (who stray), but now our approach is to engage them.”

The government last held the dakwah month in 1978.

Ahmad Zahid, who is the Minister in charge of religious matters, said the idea of bringing back the dakwah month followed discussions with ulama and religious figures who felt this was necessary to address the issue of Muslim unity.

“We are pleased to hold the dakwah month with the strong



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blessings of the ulama.”

The dakwah month, he said, would bring closer the various Muslim groups by aligning them to focus on core issues of unity and the propagation of Islam.

He said the current situation had given the impression that Muslim organisations were not on the same wavelength as each had its own views and activities.

“I notice there are loopholes in the many programmes now which lack continuity. The many Muslim groups and non-governmental organisations also have different

priorities.”

This, Ahmad Zahid said, had caused Muslims to engage in debates on branches of the religion, veering off the main issue of unity.

He said the dakwah month had the objective of uniting all Muslims by encouraging them to put aside their differences and move together in the name of Islam.

“Differing political stands and other personal differences should be set aside for this cause.”

The dakwah month would

be carried out throughout the country, involving all federal and state government agencies, non-governmental organisations, Muslim bodies, students and the grassroots.

Ahmad Zahid said he had requested all state governments, including the Pakatan Rakyat-controlled states, to observe the dakwah month as the Federal Government did not intend to mix religious matters with politics.

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should carry out the struggle to achieve the Islamic vision.

“What I wish to achieve is to unite the Muslim thinking by putting aside political ideologies, differing opinions, their professional and education backgrounds. In the name of Islam, we should unite.”

Ahmad Zahid said while the old programmes had been injected with new elements, new activities would be given a contemporary outlook.

“Dakwah programmes should not merely be a series of ceramah in a one-way track as I believe in multi-dimensional discussions.

“We will use the media to highlight Islam to reach the non-Muslims. But there is no intention to convert them, only to show that Islam is universal and does not repress other religions.”

He said although the dakwah month was held this particular month, it did not mean dakwah programmes could only be carried out within this period.

“The rejuvenation should serve as a reawakening for missionaries, or pendakwah, to spread the teachings of Islam to the people.”