

MAHATHIR-ARMY  
BM

BENTONG, JULY 14 (BERNAMA) -- <sup>83</sup> <sup>10</sup> DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT THE COUNTRY CANNOT ENDURE IF THERE IS NO ONE WILLING TO MAKE THE SACRIFICE OF BEARING ARMS FOR ITS SECURITY.

HE WAS HAPPY THAT THERE WERE PEOPLE PREPARED TO SHOULDER ARMS AND LEAVE THEIR KAMPUNGS AND FAMILIES, SAYING THEIR SACRIFICE GAVE PEACE AND ORDER TO THE COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER WHO IS ALSO THE DEFENCE MINISTER STRESSED THAT QUALITIES OF VALOUR AND DEDICATION INHERENT IN THE COUNTRY'S SECURITY FORCES WERE SOMETHING WHICH THE NATION AND PEOPLE COULD BE PROND OF.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A BREAKING OF THE FAST CEREMONY WITH OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 8TH BATTALION ROYAL MALAY REGIMENT HERE.

ALSO PRESENT WERE PAHANL MENTRI BESAR DATUK NAJIB TUN RAZAK, CHIEF OF ARMY JEN. TAN SRI ZAIN HASHIM, 4TH BRIGADE COMMANDER BRIG. JEN. MOHAMMAD SHAH AMIN AND BATTALION COMMANDING OFFICER LT. KOL. RIDZUAN SHAMSUDDIN.

--MORE 2309/AN

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE COUNTRY WAS INDEBTED TO THE SERVICEMEN AND GRATEFUL FOR THE SACRIFICE MADE BY THEM.

HE PRAYED AND HOPED MEMBERS OF THE ARMY REMAINED IN GOOD HEALTH AND SAFETY AND EXERCISED PATIENCE AND WILLINGNESS IN FACING CHALLENGES TO ENSURE THE COUNTRY EXISTED FOREVER.

HE HOPED THEY WOULD NOT FEEL SAD AND DISAPPOINTEE AT NOT BEING ABLE TO SPEND THE HARI RAYA WITH THEIR FAMILIES BECAUSE OF THE CALL OF DUTY.

THEY SHOULD INSTEAD TAKE PRIDE IN THE FACT THAT THEY WERE PART OF THE ELITE OR FOREMOST GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR DEFENDING THE NATION.

THEY WERE ENTRUSTED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SAFEGUARDING THE SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY AND WHEN THEY RETIRED, THE RESPONSIBILITY WOULD BE PASSED ON TO OTHERS.

THIS, HE STRESSED, WAS A FACT OF LIFE IN A SOCIETY WITH MEMBERS LIVING IN INTERPEDENDENCE WITH ONE ANOTHER. --MORE 2328/OM

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EACH AND EVERYONE HAD THEIR OWN ROLE TO PLAY TO PRESERVE THE SOVEREIGNTY AND EXISTENCE OF THE COUNTRY.

LT. KOL. RIDZUAN IN HIS SPEECH SAID THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRESENCE AT SUCH FUNCTIONS WOULD GIVE GREATER INSPIRATION AND INCENTIVE TO SERVICEMEN TO CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES WITH GREATER HEART AND DEDICATION. --BERNAMA 2330/OM