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KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 6 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAYS MUSLIMS TODAY ARE FACING DISUNITY DUE TO THE +RECKLESS AND EMOTIONAL+ ACTIONS OF MUSLIM EXTREMIST GROUPS.

+THEIR ACTIONS HAVE LEFT SOME NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON MUSLIM UNITY,+ HE SAYS IN HIS MESSAGE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 27TH QURAN READING COMPETITION AND THE FIFTH MENGHAFAZ COMPETITION BEING HELD AT THE ISLAMIC CENTRE HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAYS THERE IS ANOTHER GROUP OF EXTREMISTS WHOSE TENDENCY IS TO BLAME OTHERS FOR ANY SHORTCOMINGS INSTEAD OF EXAMINING THEIR OWN FAILURES.

+ISLAMIC TEACHINGS REQUIRE MUSLIMS TO STRIVE IN FOSTERING MUSLIM UNITY BY ADOPTING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND AVOID CAUSING DISUNITY,+ HE STRESSES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAYS THAT MUSLIM UNITY SERVES AS A +BULWARK+ TO STRENGTHEN MUSLIM INTEGRITY AND ENSURE HAPPINESS BOTH IN THIS WORLD AS WELL AS THE HEREAFTER. -- MORE
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HE SAYS THAT EFFORTS MADE TO FOSTER UNITY REQUIRE THE FULL AND ACTIVE COOPERATION AND INVOLVEMENT OF MUSLIMS.

+MUSLIM INTELLECTUALS SHOULD RENDER THEIR SERVICES TOWARDS ACHIEVING THIS OBJECTIVE BY CONSIDERING PRESENT WORLD DEVELOPMENTS AND CONDITIONS,+ HE ADDS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO STRESSES THE NEED FOR MUSLIMS IN THE COUNTRY TO SERIOUSLY VIEW THE THREAT TO MUSLIM UNITY.

+WE MUST ADOPT A FARSIGHTED ATTITUDE AND ENDEAVOUR TO PRESERVE PEACE AND HARMONY,+ HE SAYS.

HE ADDS THAT THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL QURAN READING COMPETITIONS, +UNITY, THE FOUNDATION OF INTEGRITY OF THE UMMAH+, EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY IN PROMOTING PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS STRENGTHENING MUSLIM INTEGRITY. -- BERNAMA
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