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JITRA, JUNE 8 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT CALLED ON MUSLIMS TO MAINTAIN SOLIDARITY, SAYING THAT THEY MUST NEVER ALLOW POLITICAL DIFFERENCES TO DISUNITE THEM.

ADDRESSING SOME 1,000 VILLAGERS OF KAMPUNG PADANG GELAM PASIR NEAR HERE ON THE OCCASION OF NUZUL QURAN, HE SAID ANY GROUP MUST NOT RETALIATE SHOULD ANOTHER MAKE WILD ALLEGATIONS AGAINST IT.

INSTEAD, THE GROUP BEING ACCUSED MUST ATTEMPT TO MEET THE OTHER AND EXPLAIN THE ACTUAL SITUATION, HE SAID.

+THIS IS THE REQUIREMENT OF ISLAM WHICH MUST BE HELD STEADFAST BY EVERY MUSLIM FOR THE GOOD AND SOLIDARITY OF THE UMMAH,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE MUSLIMS OF THIS COUNTRY WERE FORTUNATE TO BE ABLE TO LIVE IN PEACE AND CARRY OUT THEIR OBLIGATIONS DURING THE FASTING MONTH IN A HARMONIOUS AND HAPPY ATMOSPHERE. -- MORE

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SUCH AN ATMOSPHERE DID NOT PREVAIL FOR PALESTINIANS, THE MUSLIMS IN LEBANON, AND THE PEOPLE OF WARRING IRAN AND IRAQ, HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH, RECOVERING FROM A RECENT ONSLAUGHT OF THE TYPHOON, DID NOT WAIT FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT BUT ERECTED MUD-HOUSES IN WHICH TO SHELTER.

THIS ATTITUDE OF SELF-RELIANCE, HE SAID, SHOULD BE EMULATED BY MUSLIMS IN THIS COUNTRY.

ON UMNO, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADVISED PARTIES TO ANY MISUNDERSTANDING TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM BY COMING TOGETHER FOR DISCUSSIONS.

HE EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE ATTITUDE OF CERTAIN QUARTERS WHICH BROUGHT PARTY SQUABBLES TO COURT. -- MORE

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HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THE UMNO LEADERS INVOLVED IN DISPUTES WOULD RESOLVE THEIR MISUNDERSTANDING THROUGH A MEDIATOR.

+WHEN THE MEDIATOR COMES UP WITH A SOLUTION, BOTH SIDES SHOULD ACCEPT IT WITH SINCERITY FOR THE STRENGTH AND SOLIDARITY OF THE PARTY,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA

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