

'Forgive those out to destroy peace'

PM: Let us be thankful

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad called upon Muslims to spend Hari Raya in gratitude and to forgive the thankless among them who seem sworn to destroy the peace.

Dr Mahathir said in his Hari Raya address: "Let us create a thankful society in Malaysia... the feeling of indebtedness (to God) will make us Muslims pious and steadfast in the belief of *Allah*."

"Unfortunately a small number among the *rakyat* refuse to humbly accept the blessings of peace, stability and harmony.

"Instead, they divide the people by blowing up petty concerns and behave recklessly, without

regard for the horrible consequences likely in their actions.

"For most of us, who cherish brotherliness and harmony, let us stretch out a hand of friendship to those who feud and urge upon them the humility and gratefulness of returning to the community of Islam," he said on nation-wide radio and television.

"Let us together be thankful, not only in prayer but in thinking for a moment about God's gifts every day of our lives.

"Thinking about what we have will enable us to compare ourselves with others and see our advantages and disadvantages," he said.

Muslims have the absence of war and calamity the most to thank for, he said. Malaysia was lucky to be spared of hunger and suffering. "Its people are not oppressed or fettered and individual rights, which do not infringe on society, are protected," he said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam and Datin Maria wished all Muslims in Malaysia *Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri*.

In a Hari Raya message, they said:

"Although we are unable to celebrate this happy occasion in our homeland, I pray that each and every Malaysian will celebrate it with joy."

Datuk Musa also reminded Malaysians to remember the services and sacrifices of the security forces that have enabled them to celebrate Hari Raya in a situation of peace and security.

"As the Home Minister, I wish a *Selamat Hari Raya Puasa* to all officers and the rank and file of our security forces, including the Royal Malaysian Police Force, especially those on duty whether at the border or far away from their families to ensure national security and public order."

Datuk Musa and Datin Maria are in the United States for the convocation of their eldest daughter, Mariana.

"Those who become proud, snubbing what others take as good fortune, signal the breakdown of civilisation and progress in any society, he warned.

They "refuse to be thankful for the free practice of Islam in this country despite its non-Muslim half, the numerous places of worship, the pre-eminence of Islam in this country and, most hypocritically, refuse to be thankful with the efforts to implant Islamic values into the running of the country."

"But the Government has the majority of the people and the *ummah* to thank for in their awareness that unity is the basis for fulfilment in this world and in the hereafter," he said.

■ DR Mahathir and Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah wish all Muslims Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

The Prime Minister also made special mention of the Armed Forces in active duty.