

PM raps those who choose to ignore rebuke

Default on loans no laughing matter: Mahathir

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TUNJANG, Tues. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today criticised certain groups of irresponsible people who laughed when they were ridiculed by Government leaders for their actions.

These people, said the Prime Minister, included the Mara loan defaulters.

"They were so irresponsible that they could still laugh when listening to me ridiculing their attitude," he said.

"My remarks against them were supposed to make them realise their responsibilities in settling their dues so that other people who are more deserving could obtain loans from Mara," he said.

Speaking to reporters after donating a head of cattle to the people here in conjunction with Hari Raya Haji this morning, the Prime Minister urged the people to discard selfishness for the sake of the community.

"They should be prepared to make sacrifices

that will benefit the community.

"We do not want leaders who can only talk of helping the people but who are not prepared to make sacrifices for them," he said.

He said that it was the willingness of the Japanese to make sacrifices for the sake of the majority that helped make Japan one of the advanced nations in the world.

This was reflected by the voluntary resignation of the Japan Air Lines president after one of its planes crashed recently.

"It showed that he was not thinking of his own interest even though he was not to be blamed for the accident. But to them, it is a responsibility that they must bear," he said.

He urged the younger generation to develop high moral values.

Dr Mahathir was accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah.