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JITRA, MAY 30 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT THAT MUSLIMS SHOULD NOT ALLOW DIFFERENCES IN VIEWS TO BE THE OBSTACLE IN ENHANCING THEIR SPIRIT OF UNITY AND BROTHERHOOD.

+WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW OUR DIFFERENCES TO PREVENT US FROM BEING TOGETHER IN OFFERING OUR PRAYERS TO GOD,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AT A BREAKING OF THE FAST FUNCTION AT MASJID SIPUTEH, PADANG SERA, TUNJANG NEAR HERE.

HE SAID THAT THE PRAYERS OFFERED BY MUSLIMS WOULD BE MORE MEANINGFUL IF THEY WERE UNITED IN SPIRIT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MUSLIMS SHOULD NOT BOYCOTT PRAYER SESSIONS JUST BECAUSE THEY WERE IN THE MIDST OF THOSE WHO WERE NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH THEIR VIEWS.

THIS WOULD ONLY CREATE GREATER DISUNITY AMONG THE MUSLIMS, HE ADDED. -- MORE
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IN THIS CONNECTION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HOPED THE EXISTING SPIRIT OF BROTHERHOOD AMONG RESIDENTS IN TUNJANG WOULD BE MAINTAINED.

+WE DO NOT WANT TO BE ENEMIES WITH ANYBODY. IN FACT, WE WISH TO BE FRIENDS WITH EVERYONE IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR VIEWS,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR DESCRIBED AS +NORMAL+ IF THERE WAS DIFFERENCES IN VIEWS AMONG MUSLIMS BECAUSE +EVEN HUSBANDS AND WIVES HAVE CONFLICTING VIEWS AT TIMES.+

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO URGED MUSLIMS TO ALWAYS PERFORM GOOD DEEDS AS REQUIRED BY ISLAM AND EMULATE THE SPIRIT OF THE ARAB AND INDIAN MERCHANTS WHO CAME TO THE MALAY PENINSULA ABOUT 600 YEARS AGO TO SPREAD ISLAM.

+THOSE WHO CAME HERE TO SPREAD ISLAM ADHERED TO ISLAMIC VALUES BY BEING HUMBLE AND THEY GAINED THE RESPECT OF THE PEOPLE,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT MALAY RULERS WHO AT THAT TIME WERE NOT MUSLIMS WERE TOUCHED BY THEIR BEHAVIOUR AND EVENTUALLY EMBRACED ISLAM.

+THIS WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED IF THE ARAB AND INDIAN TRADERS WERE ARROGANT AND SHOWED OFF TO THE NON-MUSLIMS, LIKE THAT DEMONSTRATED BY THE PORTUGUESE AND DUTCH,+ HE SAID.

ALSO PRESENT WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI, KEDAH MENTERI BESAR DATUK PADUKA HAJI OSMAN AROFF AND DEPUTY DEWAN RAKYAT SPEAKER DR ABDUL HAMID PAWAN TEH. -- BERNAMA
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