

U E031 DEE
MAHATHIR-RAYA

BM

(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 9.30PM TODAY)

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 7 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT CALLED ON THE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY MUSLIMS, TO FIGHT THOSE WHO USED LIES TO HAMPER THE ACCEPTANCE OF ISLAMIC VALUES AS A SOURCE OF GUIDANCE AND A WAY OF LIFE IN MALAYSIAN SOCIETY.

HE SAID MUSLIMS WERE NOW SUBJECT TO PRESSING CHALLENGES AND WHATEVER WEAKNESSES THEY HAD WERE BEING EXPLOITED BY THOSE WHO WISHED TO CREATE DISUNITY AND UNDERMINE THE RESILIENCE OF THE MUSLIMS.

THE PRIME MINISTER, IN HIS NATIONWIDE HARI RAYA MESSAGE OVER RADIO AND TELEVISION, SAID THE ENEMIES OF ISLAM COULD ATTAIN THEIR EVIL ENDS AS MUSLIM NATIONS IN GENERAL DEPENDED GREATLY ON NATIONS WHERE ENEMIES OF ISLAM COULD BE FOUND.

SAYING THAT DEVELOPING MUSLIM NATIONS WERE NO LESS THE TARGET, HE ADDED THAT MUSLIMS WERE BEING MADE USED OF THROUGH SUBTLE MEANS BY THE ENEMIES OF ISLAM.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS COPING WITH CHALLENGES REALISTICALLY AND RESOLUTELY, AND HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE PEOPLE'S AWARENESS OF THE CONCEPT OF SACRIFICE AS ADVOCATED BY ISLAM, THE CHALLENGES AND PROBLEMS WOULD BE OVERCOME. -- MORE
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HE SAID THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY WAS BEGINNING TO SHOW ENCOURAGING SIGNS OF RECOVERY WITH THE RISING DEMAND FOR ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS AND INCREASED JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SECTOR.

HOWEVER, HE REMINDED THOSE WHO WERE EMPLOYED NOT TO BE DRAWN BY SHORT-TERM GAINS AT THE RISK OF THEIR LONG-TERM FUTURE, AND WHICH HE SAID MIGHT SPOIL THE CHANCES FOR THE JOBLESS.

HE SAID PRIMARY COMMODITIES, WHICH WERE VITAL TO THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY, STILL FACED A DEPRESSED MARKET AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS DOING ITS UTMOST TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS BROUGHT ON BY THE DIP IN PRICES.

+WE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT PRODUCTION COSTS SHOULD BE WELL BELOW THE SELLING PRICE, BUT THIS REQUIRES SKILLFUL MANAGEMENT AND HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY FROM WORKERS,+ HE SAID.

HE TOLD THE PEOPLE TO TAKE STOCK OF THEMSELVES AND RECOGNISE, AND RECTIFY, THEIR WEAKNESSES RATHER THAN LAMENT THE LACK OF INVESTORS COMING TO MALAYSIA. -- MORE
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO CALLED ON MUSLIMS TO REFLECT ON THE LOT OF THOSE WHO WERE LESS FORTUNATE, SAYING THIS WOULD MAKE THEM MORE SYMPATHETIC AND WILLING TO CARRY OUT WELFARE ACTIVITIES.

HE SAID ISLAM WOULD BE ACCORDED GREATER RESPECT IF MUSLIMS WERE CONSIDERATE AND COOPERATIVE.

+MUSLIMS SHOULD BE ASHAMED THAT THE NON-MUSLIMS HAVE BEEN MORE ACTIVE IN EXTENDING AID TO FAMINE-STRICKEN MUSLIMS IN AFRICA,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE COUNTRY'S ENEMIES WOULD NOT CEASE THEIR DESTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES, NOT EVEN ON HARI RAYA, WHICH WAS WHY THE SECURITY FORCES HAD TO MAINTAIN VIGILANCE.

HE THANKED MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES FOR THE SACRIFICES THEY MADE IN SERVING THE NATION. -- BERNAMA
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