

PM: Beware of Islam's enemies

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight called on Muslims to be wary of "the enemies of Islam" who are constantly trying to divide the Muslim world.

In his Hari Raya Puasa message over RTM tonight, the Prime Minister said the weaknesses of Muslims were being fully exploited by "certain quarters who are aiming to split the Muslim community and undermine its resilience."

Urging Muslims to avoid friction among themselves, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said developing nations were not spared from the exploitation.

In a subtle and indirect manner, Muslims were being instigated to en-

danger the stability of their countries, he said.

Without realising this, Muslims were being used and this made it possible for the enemies of Islam to achieve their objectives.

Dr Mahathir said the failure and success of a society depended on its values.

"We have chosen Islamic values as our guide and our belief... let no one betray our choice by throwing around lies that can weaken our acceptance of Islamic values... because we know these values can bring benefits to us."

Our problems

He said if Muslims failed it was because those who had betrayed them had succeeded in impeding the assimilation of Islamic values.

"Therefore, we must fight the instigators and those in our way to ensure that we succeed and are able to strengthen our faith."

Dr Mahathir also called on the people to reflect on the challenges now

confronting them as a result of the economic slowdown when celebrating the Hari Raya Puasa.

He said a person with faith would not be easily disappointed and defeated.

Dr Mahathir said the person should instead work out strategies to overcome the problems and thus emerge stronger.

He said the people should be thankful that the problems confronting them were not as serious as those faced by other nations.

Dr Mahathir said the Government was determined to face these challenges realistically.

"God willing, with the rakyat's awareness of the concept of sacrifice taught by Islam, we will together overcome our problems.

"God will not change our fate unless we work hard to change it ourselves. This is the Government's belief and also that of the rakyat, particularly Muslims."

The Prime Minister said there were signs that the economy was improving, adding that recently there was a greater demand for locally-manufac-

ured electronic goods.

He said the employment opportunities in this sector were also encouraging.

"We should, therefore, not forget our experience as a result of the economic slowdown. We, who are fortunate, should remember those who are still jobless. Whether or not they get a job depends on our performance.

Short period

"If our performance is bad, investment will be channelled to other countries, where there may be lower costs but higher productivity."

Dr Mahathir reminded workers to protect their interests and not be influenced by "the shadow of higher pay" within a short period which could affect them in the long term.

"Let us not spoil the opportunities of others who are still unemployed by our own excessive self-interest."

He called on the people to be thrifty and be prepared to enjoy less comfort until the economy recovers.