

M urges Muslims to avoid conflicts

Unity — key to progress

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad called on Muslims to avoid conflicts among themselves if they are to implement their plans and achieve their ambitions.

In a Hari Raya message, the Prime Minister said disunity would lead to backwardness and even the disintegration of a community.

Dr Mahathir noted that the Muslims in Spain, in Malacca during the Malacca Sultanate, in Afghanistan and in Palestine had experienced backwardness because of disunity.

He urged Malaysian Muslims to learn from such experiences and avoid actions that could bring about disunity among them.

Dr Mahathir also told Muslims to be aware of forces out to cause instability in the country. "Muslims face a lot of challenges in our time. The weaknesses of Muslims are exploited fully by those who seek to break up the Muslim community and weaken their defence.

"Their task is made easier by the fact that Islamic countries are to a large extent dependent on countries who sympathise with the enemies of Islam. Developing Islamic

Greetings from PM

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Paduka Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasimah wish all Muslims "Selamat Hari Raya".

countries are not spared this.

"In Malaysia, they are also trying to cause instability by indirect and subtle means in order to undermine development and our defence.

"This means that we have to take steps to maintain unity because it is only with unity that we can ensure the success of our plans. Disunity will bring about backwardness and may even cause disintegration."

Success

The Prime Minister said one of the factors which could bring about disunity was the tendency of some people to believe what they were told without investigation.

Quoting from the Quran, he said believers of the faith are required to investigate what they hear before they believe in the news so that they do not, in their ignorance, cause untoward incidents to happen to a society or individual which would lead them to regret their actions.

He said that not all news was untrue. However, there could be reports which were fabricated for a certain purpose. It was sinful and wrong to spread news without first verifying its truthfulness.

Muslims should also deal with each other with courtesy and respect as required by the Quran.

The Quran forbade Muslims from running down others and from raising issues which might anger or cause embarrassment to other people. It also prohibited Muslims from ridiculing others, especially other Muslims.

Dr Mahathir said the Quran also forbade people from harbouring evil thoughts and having evil intentions. Muslims were advised to emphasise values which strengthened unity and harmony among the people.

The Prime Minister asked the people to make it a point to remember the Armed Forces who were carrying out their duties in various parts of the country as they celebrate Hari Raya.