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MAHATHIR-PEACE
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JITRA, APRIL 10 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID MUSLIM SOLIDARITY HAS ENSURED PEACE IN THE COUNTRY.

+IF MUSLIMS ARE WEAK, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE WEAK TOO AND WE WILL BE OPPRESSED,+ THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD RESIDENTS OF TANJUNG PAUH HERE AFTER JOINING THEM TO BREAK THE FAST AT THE VILLAGE MOSQUE LAST NIGHT.

NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, MUSLIMS IN MALAYSIA APPRECIATED PEACE AND WERE ALWAYS STRIVING TO MAINTAIN IT.

HE SAID TOO MANY PEOPLE WERE TAKING PEACE FOR GRANTED AND DID NOT VALUE IT.

+PEACE IN OUR COUNTRY SHOULD BE TREASURED AS WE OFTEN HEAR OF RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS RIOTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND THE PEOPLE THERE ARE LIVING IN FEAR,+ HE SAID.

AS MALAYSIA CONSISTS OF VARIOUS RACES AND RELIGIONS, RIOTS WOULD HAVE BEEN COMMON BUT YET THESE DO NOT OCCUR BECAUSE THE PEOPLE VALUED PEACE, HE SAID. -- MORE

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AS SUCH, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL AND AT THE SAME TIME, PONDER ON THE FATE OF OTHERS, BE CONSIDERATE AND HELPFUL.

+OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE IS OUR UNITY ... DO NOT LET US BE DISUNITED OVER SOMETHING TOO INSIGNIFICANT,+ HE SAID.

ALTHOUGH THERE EXISTS DIFFERING VIEWS AMONG THE PEOPLE, THESE SHOULD NOT BE EXPANDED AT THE EXPENSE OF PEACE, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS WIFE, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI, LATER LEFT FOR KUALA LUMPUR.-- BERNAMA

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