

'Be thankful for economic recovery'

PM: Count your many blessings

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the people should be thankful for the economic recovery and peace and stability in the country.

In his Hari Raya Aidil Fitri message over RTM, the Prime Minister called on Muslims to use the Hari Raya period to ponder and count the many blessings that God has bestowed upon them and the nation.

He said there would be dire consequences if the country was afflicted with pickets, strikes, disorder, racial conflicts and other unlawful actions that often occurred in other countries.

This was not happening in Malaysia as the majority of the people appreciated stability and unity.

"Malaysians also respect the powers given to government agencies, such as the police and Armed Forces, to preserve peace and security.

"Any attempt to obstruct the police in carrying out their duty or any attempt to take the law into one's own hands is extremely dangerous."

Dr Mahathir cautioned that if one party made such an attempt, the other party would also resort to a similar action, saying that if this happened, there would be a breakdown in social order, and anarchy.

"If there is anarchy, our lives would no longer be safe. There will be chaos.

"Like we have seen in other countries, it is extremely difficult to restore order after an outbreak of anarchy.

"Therefore, let us guard and protect our country's stability. No one will benefit, whether Muslims or non-Muslims, if peace and stability is destroyed."

Dr Mahathir said the Government was gratified that a number of development projects could be implemented because of stability and economic recovery.

The country, he noted, had been recording a commendable economic growth for four consecutive years, saying that in 1989, economic growth was 8.5 per cent — the second consecutive year it had exceeded eight per cent.

"This growth is directly meaningful to us all, because it creates the opportunity for us to work, to conduct business and enjoy better facilities provided by the Government and private sector as well as improve the quality of our life."

Dr Mahathir said the economic recovery was more meaningful because the people knew the negative effects of an economic slowdown after having experienced it recently.

"A good economic growth is not a matter of pride to the Government, but is for society to enjoy."

Dr Mahathir urged Muslims to pray for the health and safety of members of the Armed Forces and other services, such as the medical service, who were unable to celebrate Hari Raya with their families because of duty.

The Prime Minister called on non-Muslims to celebrate the occasion with their Muslim friends.

To those travelling by road, Dr Mahathir said they must always be cautious.

"Drive with care so that the Hari Raya will not be shrouded with sorrow," he said.