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KUALA LUMPUR, July 12 (Bernama) -- Muslims in the country should further strengthen relationships among themselves in conjunction with the celebrations to mark +Maal Hijrah 1412+, the Muslim New Year, tomorrow, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said Islam encouraged its followers to forge brotherly relationships and cooperation as they brought benefits.

+A cooperative and united Muslim community will be stronger and better able to achieve success as well as face challenges,+ he said in a message mark this year's Maal Hijrah celebrations.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir urged all Muslims to cast aside evil deeds and increase welfare activities so that they would receive the protection and blessings of Allah.

They should learn from Islamic history which told of the sacrifices made by Prophet Muhammad in spreading Islam, he added. -- more

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He said: +There are many examples of success in Islamic history and Muslims can be successful and respected if they strive hard, be discipline and have confidence in themselves.

+When we have succeeded, the success itself will serve as the most effective testimony.+

An assembly to be attended by about 7,500 people will be held at Stadium Negara tomorrow in conjunction with the celebrations.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Azlan Shah and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Bainun will attend. -- Bernama

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