

# PM: Think rationally

By Ahmad Talib

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Muslims should not adopt a fanatical attitude by rejecting rational thinking, adding that in today's modern and competitive world, the community must double its efforts in all fields in line with current developments.

The Prime Minister said he does not wish to see Muslims left behind because they only pursue happiness in the hereafter.

"Islam does not ask or compel us to invent, add or practise new rituals which can cause us hardship. If the majority of Muslims neglect their normal work in preference for new rituals, they will become poor and be easily exploited and suppressed by other people."

In his Hari Raya Aidilfitri message, the Prime Minister said Malaysia had attained rapid development in various sectors besides enjoying political stability and economic progress.

"All these would not have been possible without the perseverance and dedication of the people who are always looking for peace and prosperity. Let us continue to maintain this harmonious situation so that we can avoid conflict and enable peace to continue," the Prime Minister said.

On the nation's economy, Dr Mahathir said the country had succeeded in recording encouraging growth rates with inflation and unemployment under control.

The good economy has enabled the rakyat to enjoy high standards of living. The country's strong financial position has enabled



DR MAHATHIR  
.. dedication

## Hari Raya greetings

THE Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, wish all Muslims Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

newspapers or see on television or with their own eyes the condition of people in other countries.

"The fate of some people in some countries in Africa, Latin America and East Europe is truly sad. In these countries, basic facilities such as water and electricity, which we take for granted, are almost non-existent.

"Even in some developed countries, the people's lives are not as good as it is made out to be. There are people who have no shelter or

Government employees to enjoy salary increases, he added.

"We are confident that if Malaysians continue to work hard and increase their productivity and be brave in facing all challenges, the nation will show more rapid development," he said.

The Government has already implemented the National Development Plan and the Sixth Malaysia Plan to further develop the country. Through the use of new technology, improved skills of its workers and with more infrastructure, the country will grow even further.

"But what is most important are knowledge, diligence and discipline. Even the most developed countries will fall if the people lack high morale and if they have no control over their desires.

"We in Malaysia are so fortunate when compared with other people. Normally, it is not unusual for Malaysians not to realise how good their lives are in this Country until they read in

home and their livelihood is taken care of by welfare homes. In some countries Muslims are suppressed from practising their religion."

Dr Mahathir said Hari Raya should be celebrated with good manners, exchange of visits and forgiveness. He added that it had a special significance such as the culture of exchanging visits which had helped to instil stability and harmony in our country.

"Thanks to God Almighty, Muslims in the country have managed to conclude their fast in peace. For the whole month, we succeeded not only in facing hunger and thirst, we also managed to control our desires in various forms to emerge more grateful and, conscious of our shortcomings.

"At the same time we managed to continue our work. This has helped us to realise how fortunate our normal daily lives are compared with those who are

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# PM's advice on how to succeed

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forced to work every day in hunger and thirst.

"Those who stop work and discontinue their business operations to enable them to fast will not know the difficulties faced by those who are forced to work in hunger and thirst.

"Fasting is not just an exercise to win points by not eating or drinking during the day in the month of Ramadan. Fasting helps to mould a more complete personality with such attributes as patience, consideration, discipline and not being wasteful.

"Fasting also teaches us to be more conscious of the difficulties and problems

faced by the poor and the less fortunate. Fasting also helps us to feel a little about the anguish of the poor.

"It also helps to remind us that whatever wealth and good health we now enjoy are only temporary. This realisation should make us more considerate and grateful to God. A caring society can be better developed with the lessons from fasting."

He told Muslims that if they wished to succeed, they must seek to renew their thirst for knowledge in all fields. This is also in line with the plan to turn Malaysia into a developed nation by the year 2020.

Dr Mahathir said: "While

we are celebrating we should not forget our security forces and some personnel in certain departments who have to work on this good day.

"We should also spare a thought for our security forces who are undertaking peacekeeping operations in several countries abroad. They helped to enhance respect and dignity in us and our nation. Their sacrifices must be fully appreciated."

The Prime Minister also had a word of advice for motorists and road users.

"I wish to make a plea to those who use the road to be very careful. More than 90 per cent of road accidents are caused by the mistakes

made by drivers.

"We can avoid accidents by being patient and driving carefully. It is sad when we have to read news of deaths from road accidents whenever we celebrate festivals.

"That is why I wish to remind road users to be careful. We should not compromise safety with wanting to reach our destination 15 or 20 minutes earlier.

"We should not mind being slightly delayed as long as we can celebrate Hat-i Raya with our friends and relatives and then return to work safely. I pray that all drivers during this Hari Raya will exercise patience, care and concern when travelling."